

Journal of the Royal Society of Arts

NO. 4922

FRIDAY, 9TH APRIL, 1954

VOL. CII

THE BICENTENARY WEEK

The Society's Bicentenary celebrations began on Monday, 22nd March, two hundred years to the day after the meeting at Rawthmell's Coffee House of 'some Noblemen, Clergy, Gentlemen and Merchants in order to form a Society for the encouragement of arts, manufactures and commerce in Great Britain'. The day began with a Service of Thanksgiving at the Church of St. Martin-in-the Fields; in the afternoon Addresses of Congratulation from other societies were presented in the Society's House; in the evening the Council of the Society held a celebration dinner in the hall of the Tallow Chandlers. On the afternoons of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the three special Bicentenary lectures were delivered, on the subject of the Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, respectively. The week's celebrations ended with the Banquet at the Savoy Hotel on Friday, 26th March.

Reports and photographs of all the events of the Bicentenary week other than the three lectures are contained in the Proceedings section of this *Journal*. To make the story complete, a note about the staff dinner which took place on 31st March has also been included in the present issue, although this was held after the principal celebrations.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE BICENTENARY EVENTS

Copies of all the photographs reproduced in this issue of the *Journal* may be ordered, at the price of four shillings and sixpence each, from the Secretary. Copies of a number of other photographs taken during the Bicentenary celebrations may be seen at the Society's House and may also be bought at the same price.

COPIES OF PROGRAMMES

A number of copies of the two booklets containing the Order of Service of Thanksgiving and the programme for the Presentation of Addresses ceremony have not been used and may be obtained free of charge by Fellows from the Secretary. Both booklets were designed by Mr. John R. Biggs, who was commissioned to design all typographic matter arising from the Bicentenary, and printed by the Curwen Press.

BICENTENARY CELEBRATIONS OVERSEAS

Reports have been received of a number of arrangements made to celebrate the Bicentenary overseas. In Bombay, at the suggestion of Mr. Adi K. Sett, a banquet, at which the Governor of Bombay was the guest of honour, was organized for Fellows of the Society at the Taj Mahal Hotel, on Monday, 29th March, and the necessary arrangements were kindly undertaken by Sir Fazal Ibrahim Rahimtoola. In Hong Kong, a reception was held at the home of Mr. C. W. Johnson, Honorary Corresponding Member of the Society, on Friday, 26th March.

It is hoped that when more information has been received of these events it will be possible to publish a fuller account of them.

CHAIRMAN'S BADGE OF OFFICE

The Chairman's Badge of Office, which, as reported in the last issue of the *Journal*, has been presented to the Society by Mr. J. A. Milne, and was accepted on behalf of the Chairman by Mr. E. Munro Runtz at the meeting of the Council on 8th March, was formally handed to Lord Radnor by Mr. Runtz before Professor Adrian's lecture on 17th March and was worn by the Chairman at all the Bicentenary functions. The following is a detailed description of the badge, a photograph of which is reproduced on page 327:

The design of the badge follows closely that of the Society's emblem as used on its *Journal* and stationery, which is a conception of Mr. F. H. Andrews, O.B.E., a Member of Council. It consists of an oval medallion showing the façade of the Society's House standing on an arcaded embankment above water, surrounded by sprays of oak and olive foliage which are enclosed by a scrolled and looped ribbon bearing the legend ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS FOUNDED 1754. This is surmounted by a flaming torch between crossed palm fronds enclosed in a framework of foliated scrolls.

The framework of the badge is in yellow gold. The façade of the house and the arcaded embankment are carved and engraved in a combination of white and yellow gold, and are set on a ground of rose pink opal enamel. The water is executed in alternate bands of opaque white and turquoise blue enamel divided by fine wavy lines of yellow gold. The oak and olive foliage and the palm fronds are carved in green gold and the torch in yellow gold. A fan-shaped backing to the torch and palm fronds on which the suspension link is mounted is in red gold. The ribbon which bears the legend is coloured in opaque white enamel, and transparent deep blue enamel where parts of the reverse side of the ribbon are seen, the legend being painted on in black enamel. Two small cabochon rubies are set at the points of junction between this ribbon and the upper framework. All the golds used are of 18 carat. The badge depends from a ribbon of claret red corded silk.

The goldsmiths were Messrs. Padgett & Braham of London, and the designer was Professor R. Y. Goodden, R.D.I.

THE BICENTENARY WEEK

THE SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

*held to inaugurate the celebration of the Bicentenary
in the Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar
Square, at 11.30 a.m. on Monday, 22nd March, 1954*

The sunshine which greeted people arriving at the Church for this, the first of the Bicentenary functions, heralded the fine weather which brightened all the succeeding celebrations of the week. While the congregation, which by the time the Service began had filled the body of the Church, were being led to their places by members of the Society's staff, music by Beethoven, Arne, Heinrich Schutz and Walford Davies was played. The Trio Sonata No. 2 by Thomas Arne was particularly chosen in commemoration of Arne's membership of the Society.

The service began with the hymn All people that on earth do dwell, The metrical version of Psalm XXIII The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want, was followed by the first Lesson, from Ecclesiasticus, Chapter 44, which begins Let us now praise famous men, and our fathers that begat us, read by the Chairman of Council. The hymn City of God, how broad and far Outspread Thy walls sublime! was then followed by the second Lesson from The Epistle to the Romans, Chapter 12, read by the Secretary of the Society. The Anthem, Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice, from Philipians, Chapter 4, was sung to music by Henry Purcell, and, after prayers for the Royal Family, the following THANKSGIVING was said:

Let us with all humility offer our thanksgiving to Almighty God for the foundation and continuing work of this Royal Society of Arts.

Let us thank Him for the faith that has inspired its benefactors, its Patrons, its Officers, past and present, to work and witness for the advancement of the Arts and of all sound learning, to the benefit of mankind.

Let us thank Him for the great discoveries of science, for every excellence of our crafts, and every service rendered by our commerce for wider education and greater culture among our people.

Let us thank Him for our fellowship one with another, for the opportunity of public service and for the attainment of the same.

The prayers which followed included one by Sir Francis Drake, and the following prayer written by Dr. Samuel Johnson, who was elected a member of the Society four years after its foundation:

ALMIGHTY GOD, the giver of all good things, without Whose help all labour is ineffectual, and without Whose grace all wisdom is folly; grant, we

beseech Thee, that in this our undertaking, Thy Holy Spirit may not be withheld from us, but that we may promote Thy glory, and the salvation both of ourselves and others; grant this, O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Then after the hymn Praise, my soul, the King of heaven had been sung, the Sermon was preached by the Lord Bishop of Peterborough (a former holder of whose office was one of the earliest members of the Society), the Right Reverend Spencer Leeson, M.A.

THE SERMON

I ask you to lay two texts side by side: the first, the word of faith proclaimed by the Apostle Paul before a somewhat stale and disillusioned company of university teachers in the Athens that had once been the intellectual centre of the then known world—'In Him', that is, in God, 'we live and move and have our being': and, side by side with that, some words that were said for us a moment ago and will be found in the service form—'Let us thank Him for the great discoveries of science, for every excellence of our crafts, and every service rendered by our commerce for wider education and greater culture among our people'.

In 1754 England was largely an agricultural community. Her population was about six million, and she did not play a very conspicuous part in the life of that world. She knew little of science; Newton had already blazed some marvellous trails, but no one had as yet thought of applying science to industrial processes, largely because industry in the modern sense hardly then existed. Looking forward another fifty years, in 1805 Nelson destroyed the allied fleets of France and Spain, but he did far more than that, though our fathers did not realize it at the time—he cleared the seas for our foreign trade, and, although there were still ten years of the war to run, it was then that this country got her long start in the development of overseas commerce. She made good use of it: she took and maintained a long lead, virtually unchallenged till the 'seventies. From then to 1914 perhaps her confidence waned a little; she saw signs of danger ahead in the rival activities and energies of other nations in this same field of overseas trade, and then those rivalries, political and military, but also commercial, exploded and we entered upon the iron age in which our lot to-day is cast.

What are the outstanding changes of these two hundred years in their effect on the life of the nation—these long years over which the Royal Society of Arts looks back in gratitude to-day? During that time, from an isolated kingdom alone by herself in the northern seas, England became the centre and the heart of the greatest commonwealth of free peoples that this world has ever seen. During that time also there came industry and the application of science to industry, the whole range of operations with which the name and fame of this Society are so intimately bound up—the great development all the way along from Arkwright to Rutherford—and it continues still. They were marked, those

two hundred years, by momentous conflicts in social life and in thought. There existed side by side great wealth and dire poverty. There came on to the stage the sorrowful and unnecessary conflict between science and religion; and our forefathers invented a new religion, a strange and dangerous cult—the idolatry of progress, progress misdefined and misconceived.

We know that there is no progress worth the name except such as can be registered in the moral life of the individual, and reflected from that on to society: but they clouded it with such irrelevant notions as wealth, comfort, speed of travel and the rest. Moreover, they capitulated to the terrible error that man is the architect of his own progress and could be the maker of his world. A little more knowledge, a little more applied science and the millenium will soon dawn upon him in all its fullest happiness. There was indeed one philosopher, so-called, who was rash enough to say that this great process was moving inevitably onwards, with perfection as its goal.

To-day we are wiser because we have learnt to be humbler. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: is that after all true? Maybe we are coming to see that when men break the second commandment, when they set up a graven image, be it a golden calf or be it a wrong idea, their moral and spiritual balance is upset. Something is torn in the texture of their thinking; they lose their sense of direction and act wildly and blindly. Perhaps we do not hear so much to-day of a phrase that always makes me shudder, 'Man's mastery of Nature'. We think of the old legend of the giants who tried to reach heaven by piling Pelion on Ossa and the thunderbolt struck down both them and their flimsy ladder. But these ancient errors crop up again, age after age; and if *our* generation, with its agonies and its fears, fears not of God but of each other, if we begin to worship the old idol again, will the world ever learn wisdom?

As I have asked you to look back for a moment, so now we look forward. How can this Society and its friends, of whom I am proud to count myself one, how can this Society serve the days that are to be, those days that will dawn for our children when you and I have passed on into another fuller life? How can we here and now serve those days that we shall never see?

First, let us prepare ourselves for the new revelation of the new knowledge that must surely be coming. I wonder if any of you paused in thought at one word in that sentence. I did not use the word 'discovery' but rather 'revelation', and I used it to correct the balance of my own thinking. Are you with me in that, or do you think it a paradox? I submit that if we are concerned to use language in its strict and accurate sense as representing fact, there is not, there never has been, and there never can be, any such thing as discovery, man hunting out and winning something by himself, by his own unaided strength. All knowledge, not only religious knowledge, comes to us by gift, by revelation. The whole tone and tenor of this service, the prayer of Samuel Johnson that was said a moment ago, stress that obvious truth. This is not the time or the place to work out its implications, and this single example, illustrious enough, must suffice. I once heard one of the greatest physicists of our time, the late Sir Joseph Thomson, asked, 'How do your discoveries come to you?' I waited tip-toe for

the answer, and I shall never forget what he said: 'By a flash of inspired imagination'. What is inspired in a man is not of his making.

Let us therefore prepare ourselves, get ready, keep our faculties in perfect condition, so that we may be ready to receive the new knowledge when it is given to us. And next to that, let us strive ceaselessly to apply that knowledge, when it comes, for the general good. Easy to say, but difficult to remember and work out in daily practice, and yet in the very spirit and tradition of the Society.

'I have set God always before me.' As we began with two texts, I will end with two great words from Francis Bacon, prophet above all others of science in the use of humanity. One of these sayings prescribes for us the spirit of our work and the other what must always be its governing purpose, 'Nature is not conquered except by obeying her'; and you will recall the famous passage in *The Advancement of Learning*, where he surveys what he calls the last or furthest end of knowledge. He reviews a number of alternatives and dismisses them all, and finally he gives utterance to the message and the passion of his own life in words which no man who has heard them can ever forget: 'knowledge a rich storehouse for the glory of the Creator and the relief of man's estate'.

After the sermon the Te Deum was sung, to the setting by Vaughan Williams in G. This was followed by the Blessing and the National Anthem, and as the congregation left the Church the orchestra played the Giant Fugue by Johann Sebastian Bach.

The service was conducted by the Rev. Meredith Davies, M.B.E., T.D., M.Sc., and the Rev. B. E. Bennett, both Fellows of the Society, and the order of service was compiled by the Rev. Cyril L. Cresswell, C.V.O., M.A., F.S.A., Chaplain of the Royal Victorian Order, and also a Fellow.

Music throughout the service was provided by an orchestra and choir composed of staff and students of the Trinity College of Music conducted by its Principal, Dr. W. Greenhouse Allt, a Fellow of the Society, who also made the selections and in some cases prepared special orchestrations.

CEREMONY OF PRESENTATION OF CONGRATULATORY ADDRESSES

held in the Lecture Hall of the Society's House at 3 p.m. on Monday, 22nd March, 1954, with the Chairman of Council, the Right Honble. the Earl of Radnor, K.C.V.O., in the Chair

Shortly before three o'clock, two parties, the first consisting of Members of Council of the Society, the second of the delegates who were to present the congratulatory



*Professor James Kendall taking his place
with the delegates in the Lecture Hall*

addresses, filed into the crowded Lecture Hall and took their places in the remaining seats. The whole company stood up as the Chairman of Council, with Viscount Samuel and the Secretary, entered the Lecture Hall through the doors behind the dais. The Chairman then delivered the following address of welcome :

My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my very pleasant privilege and duty to express a welcome on behalf of our Society to all those who are here to-day to commemorate our Bicentenary. As you are all aware, our President, His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, obviously is unable to be here, but I have a message from him which I will read to you:

As President of the Royal Society of Arts I send my best wishes to all those gathered this afternoon to commemorate the foundation of the Society two hundred years ago.

I am sorry not to be with you and to take the Chair at this Inaugural Meeting

at which, I understand, congratulatory addresses are to be presented by the Heads of over fifty sister-Societies and organizations, including similar bodies in Malta, the United States of America, France and Western Germany. This tribute in itself clearly demonstrates the esteem and even the affection in which the Royal Society of Arts is held to-day. I feel this is so because it has always remained young in its outlook and continually champions those causes not the particular preserve of the specialised institutions.

The papers to be delivered on three afternoons this week are to be given by outstanding personalities in their respective fields, and I look forward to reading what they will have to say, as I cannot listen to them.

Her Majesty The Queen, our Royal Patron, bids me send you her good wishes for the success of these Bicentenary celebrations and to say how glad she is that Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester are able to be present at the Banquet on Friday evening, which concludes the week's activities.

PHILIP,
President.

22nd March, 1954

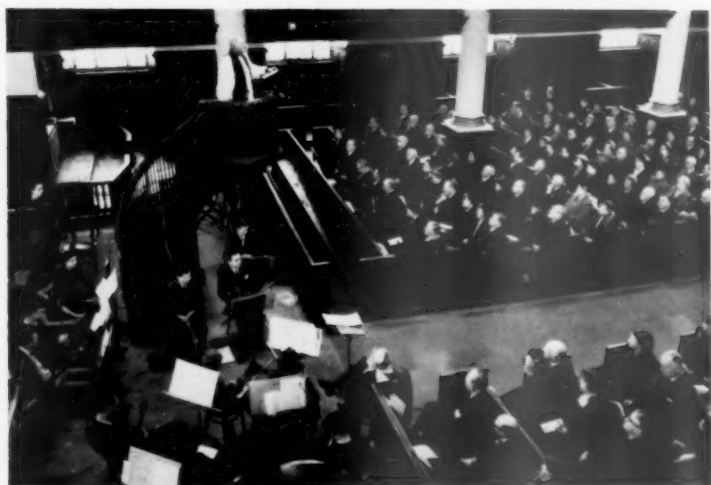
As you all appreciate, this is the two-hundredth anniversary of the founding of this Society. On 22nd March, 1754, there assembled at Rawthmell's Coffee House what is described as a company of 'noblemen, clergy, gentlemen and merchants'. Eleven people are mentioned as being present and they included that of Viscount Folkestone, whose picture is behind me, and also William Shipley. Now William Shipley was really the founder and the first Secretary of the Society, and at the meeting on that 22nd March in 1754 it was formally named, as I understand, the 'Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce'. That is the full name of what is now more generally known as the Royal Society of Arts, with the exception that much more recently we have been allowed to add the prefix 'Royal'.

An important word in that title is the word 'encouragement'. Throughout two hundred years of active work, the Society has never departed from the original intention of encouraging in different ways such activities as in their opinion were for the benefit of the nation. To use the words of the founder, it was 'a design for the public good', and if I may I should like to repeat a quotation from a letter of the first President which I think bears on this particular point. It was written in the year after the foundation of the Society, and he finishes a long letter by saying, 'I am persuaded we must not only invent, but find a way to put in practice too, before we can make things answer to our wishes'. And I think that that is something which the Society has pursued throughout its existence.

The diversity of the activities of the Society was in the past, as it still is, very wide indeed. But, of course, emphasis has from time to time changed. I am not



The Chairman's badge of office



The Thanksgiving Service



The Council Commemoration Dinner. Top (left to right): Lady Goodale, The Chairman, Mrs. Runtz, Sir Ernest Goodale, Dame Caroline Haslett and Sir Edward Crowe; bottom: The Chairman and Lady Radnor with Miss Oughton and the actors from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art

*The Council Commemorative Dinner*

going to go too far into that but, for instance, in the early days of the Society there was a great deal of attention paid to agriculture and forestry. Increased industrialization in this country diverted their attention somewhat from that particular aspect of production, although I am very glad to say that matters of the country, particularly agriculture, still hold a place in the activities of the Society. I might also mention a comparatively recent change of emphasis. That is the question of education. In the latter half of the last century the Society started taking an active interest in education of various sorts and to-day, as I think most of you know, it is a very important part of the activities of the Society.

There has also, of course, always been a very considerable pioneering element in our activities and we have frequently provided the means for bringing into public notice new developments in many directions. This pioneering element I am glad to say has more than once led to our founding, or being largely responsible for founding, new bodies and we are proud to have with us this afternoon representatives of a number of bodies which look to us in one way or another as a parent. Apart from these, a great number of very important organizations and societies have come into existence during the last two hundred years, and I think all the important ones are represented here to-day.

The formation of such societies has always been welcomed by the Royal Society of Arts and, while we never attempt to encroach upon the specialized activities of such organizations, obviously we take a broad detached interest in their work and, as many instances show, we are happy to co-operate whenever suitable occasions offer.

To-day we are to receive the congratulations of nearly sixty such societies and organizations on the completion of our two hundred years of work. We are proud indeed in the Royal Society of Arts that you should all have thought fit to come and present congratulatory addresses. I do not want to single out any particular society or section of societies for mention except that I think I might mention those who have come from overseas. There are about six of these, and it is a peculiar pleasure to us that they should have taken the trouble to come. In one or two cases it has meant a considerable amount of travelling and we welcome them very gladly in the knowledge that their presence will strengthen those bonds which link us with them. I think it is of interest that only last week I had a letter from a very eminent man who gave a lecture in this hall and he wrote as follows: 'It is really remarkable how widely the *Journal* (that is our *Journal*) is disseminated. I have had letters and messages from countries as wide apart as Sweden, America and Canada'.

In addition to the organizations which are represented here to-day many kindly messages have been received from other societies and organizations and even a number of individuals. To them, as to you, I would like, on behalf of the Society, to express our most grateful thanks. It is, for us, most encouraging that you should do what you are shortly going to do in congratulating us on two hundred years of activity. It is a very generous measure of congratulation and I do assure you that we are most grateful.

We enter to-day on our third century of existence as a society, and we can do so with a very real confidence because we have behind us the good wishes and the support of so many and really important organizations.

Congratulatory addresses were then presented by delegates representing fifty-eight organizations from home and overseas. The delegates, many of whom were robed in richly coloured academic gowns, were called upon in turn according to the date of foundation of their organizations, and came forward to present their addresses. The first and last addresses, those of the Royal College of Physicians of London, and The Malta Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, were read before they were presented.

(In each case the name of the organization is given first, followed by the date of its foundation, and the name and office of its delegate.)

HOME ORGANIZATIONS

The Royal College of Physicians of London (1518)

SIR RUSSELL BRAIN, D.M. President

The Royal College of Physicians of London send by the hands of their President cordial and sincere congratulations to the Royal Society of Arts on the two hundredth anniversary of its foundation.

Your illustrious Society was founded for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce and throughout your long history you have been watchful to foster the application of any new discovery.

Many flourishing societies and projects owe their inception to you. When each had succeeded and could continue independently your Society modestly withdrew to foster other promising beginners.

By the award of prizes and medals your Society has stimulated artists, scientists, farmers and merchants to advance the common weal, and with discernment you have cherished the wayward pioneer as well as the established worker.

Your practical concern for the welfare and safety of the people has often led you to the borderlands of Medicine. For over a century this College has been associated with your Society in the award of the Swiney prize for the best work on medical jurisprudence. This has led to friendly meetings between the Officers of your Society and our College.

We are especially glad that you are able to hold these celebrations in your own beautiful house, one of the treasures of war-scarred London, for over the last two hundred years we owe to your patronage many beautiful and useful things which are now accepted as part of our daily life. The forward-looking competition with which you are celebrating your Bicentenary suggests that the next century will place us even further in your debt.

The Royal Society of London (1660)

DR. E. D. ADRIAN, O.M. President

Two centuries ago when the generous and far-sighted initiative of William Shipley led to the foundation of the Royal Society of Arts there was little sense of public responsibility for the fostering of arts, manufactures and commerce and for

the useful application of science to this end. It might then have been feared that the objects were too vast to be attained extensively or continuously but the achievements of the Society splendidly vindicated the faith of the founders. The Great Exhibition of 1851 was inspired by their successors; agriculture and forestry have been encouraged, new knowledge and its application have been supported; nor have the concomitant problems of welfare been neglected. The congratulations and the thanks of all are due to the Royal Society of Arts on this occasion when its second century of existence is brilliantly and happily completed.

The question which must arise in our minds is whether in an age when public responsibility has been extended as never before, indeed in the opinion of some too widely, the field of opportunity which existed for William Shipley still exists for his successors.

But the danger to the novel, the unorthodox or the unpredictable which arises from the competition of a host of officially sponsored projects is if anything greater than that from general indifference or neglect. The opportunities of the Royal Society of Arts for continuing to foster initiative, intuition and inventive merit are thus perhaps greater than ever. To its felicitations on the past of the Royal Society of Arts the Royal Society can also add its confident hope that these opportunities will continue to be abundantly utilized.

The Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion (1751)

SIR WYNN P. WHELDON, K.B.E., D.S.O. President

Greeting from the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion to the Royal Society of Arts.

By the authority of the Council of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion we present greetings to you on your Bicentenary.

We know well of the great work which you have accomplished since your first beginning on 22nd March, 1754, and of your constant endeavours to assure for the Arts and Sciences their worthy place in the life of Great Britain. Today we rejoice with you when you commemorate the zeal and generosity of those magnanimous persons who founded your Society and gave it a strength which stands firm at the end of two centuries.

The Honourable Society is also a child of the eighteenth century, for it was founded in September 1751. It, too, has maintained a lively interest in Literature and the Sciences, and it has given them extensive support. From time to time, since the early days the names of members of our Society have appeared in the list of members of your Society. In diverse ways the fortunes of our two Societies have been very similar.

In the bonds of a friendship which has been shaped by two hundred years of labouring in neighbouring fields we send you this message of greetings to express our deep appreciation of all that you have fulfilled and to wish you well at the beginning of the third century in your illustrious history. (A translation from the Welsh.)

The Royal Academy of Arts (1768)

SIR GERALD KELLY President

In congratulating the Royal Society of Arts on the completion of its second century of distinguished enterprise, the Royal Academy remembers that it was in 1760, under the auspices of your Society, that the first public Exhibition of works by living artists was held in London. It was in no small measure due to the success of that pioneering venture, revealing the opportunities and advantages of similar, annual, Exhibitions, that eight years later our own Society was founded.

The name of Sir Joshua Reynolds, our first President, had already; in 1762, appeared among the signatures of the first Subscription Book of the Royal Society

of Arts, and we are proud to recall that in more recent times our Societies collaborated in the Exhibition of British Art in Industry, held at the Royal Academy in 1935, an Exhibition which stimulated widespread interest in British design.

The Members of the Royal Academy express their profound appreciation of the many services to artists rendered by the Royal Society of Arts in the past, and are confident that in the future, both in the sphere of art and in your broader responsibilities, the community will continue to benefit from your encouragement of merit and initiative.

The Royal Society of Edinburgh (1783)

PROFESSOR JAMES KENDALL, F.R.S. President

To the Royal Society of Arts The Royal Society of Edinburgh sends greetings on the occasion of its bicentenary.

The Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, one of the oldest of the scientific and learned societies of Great Britain, now the Royal Society of Arts, can look back on two hundred years of most useful practical achievement in scientific, technical, industrial, commercial and artistic matters. Your Society, in its long history, has fostered the Fine Arts, Agriculture and Forestry in their early stages at home and abroad, and has encouraged and advanced Mechanical Invention, Manufactures, Mining and Chemistry.

Our country is fortunate indeed to have in the Royal Society of Arts one of the few unspecialized societies, whose distinguished work has been accomplished over two centuries of revolutionary change in all aspects of pure and applied science and the arts. May all that your Society has achieved in its great past be continued and extended in the years to come.

The Royal Society of Edinburgh through its President sends to the Royal Society of Arts this message of sincere congratulation and felicitation.

The Linnean Society of London (1788)

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL R. B. SEYMOUR SEWELL, C.I.E., F.R.S. President

The Linnean Society of London offers hearty congratulations to the Royal Society of Arts on the Two Hundredth Anniversary of its Foundation and expresses great admiration for the many valuable results achieved by that Society in fields so diverse as Agriculture, Ceramics, Engineering and Applied Arts.

The two Societies have a number of pursuits in common and the Royal Society of Arts has conferred great benefits on that Science of Natural History which it is the special care of the Linnean Society of London to foster. Many eminent Scholars have been members of both Societies and Carl von Linne, the Great Swedish Naturalist in honour of whom our Society is named, was elected a Corresponding Member of the Royal Society of Arts in 1762.

That the Royal Society of Arts may long continue to flourish and ever add fresh lustre to its record is the cordial wish of the Fellows of the Linnean Society of London, whose Common Seal is hereunto affixed this eighteenth day of February one thousand nine hundred and fifty-four.

The Royal Institution of Great Britain (1799)

THE RIGHT HONBLE LORD BRABAZON OF TARA, P.C., G.B.E., M.C. President

The Members of the Royal Institution of Great Britain send greetings and congratulations to the Royal Society of Arts on the occasion of the Bicentenary of its Foundation.

For two hundred years the Society has encouraged the progress of knowledge in the arts, manufactures and commerce and there now stands to its credit a long



Presentation by Lord Brabazon of Tara (The Royal Institution of Great Britain)

list of notable achievements for which this country and the Commonwealth are greatly indebted.

We remember that while Sir Humphry Davy was working in our laboratories on the miner's safety lamp which bears his name, the Society was also rewarding inventions for improving safety in coal mines. We recall also that the Society in 1866 awarded Michael Faraday its Albert Medal for his discoveries in electricity, magnetism and chemistry.

It is therefore with sincere goodwill that the Members of the Royal Institution send their best wishes to the Royal Society of Arts for continued prosperity and service over the years that are to come.

The Royal College of Surgeons of England (1800)

SIR CECIL WAKELEY, BART., K.B.E., C.B. President

The President and Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England hereby convey to the Royal Society of Arts their warmest congratulations on the occasion of the Bicentenary of the Foundation of the Society.

It is with pleasure that the Council take this opportunity of expressing their admiration and respect for the outstanding services rendered by the Society in a wide field of education and in the encouragement of the Arts and Sciences over this long period. They hope that the Society will continue their work with success and prosperity for many years to come.

The Royal Horticultural Society (1804)

MAJOR ALBERT PAM, O.B.E. Member of Council

The Royal Horticultural Society in conveying its most cordial congratulations to the Royal Society of Arts on the two-hundredth anniversary of its foundation

desires to express sincere appreciation of its influence on Arts, Science and Commerce.

The Royal Society of Arts is unique in the way it has always provided a forum for the discussion of a wide range of subjects, and in the unparalleled influence which it has exerted, not only by its long-continued advocacy of the combination of beauty of design with utility of purpose, but also by its unceasing encouragement of the application of Art and Science to the development of Industry and the expansion of Commerce.

The Royal Horticultural Society is conscious that, in its own particular field of scientific and practical Horticulture, where it has been its constant endeavour to foster the gifts of God and adapt them to the bodily and intellectual needs of Man, it is actuated by the same ideals as those which inspire the Royal Society of Arts in its wider province.

That the future achievements of The Royal Society of Arts may eclipse its own past glories is the earnest wish of the Royal Horticultural Society at a meeting of whose Council on March 2nd, 1954, this Address was sealed with the Common Seal and signed by those whose names are under-written.

The Royal Society of Medicine (1805)

SIR FRANCIS WALSH, O.B.E., F.R.S. President

The Council of the Royal Society of Medicine has the honour to present to the President and the Council of the Royal Society of Arts by the hand of its President, Sir Francis Walsh, Greetings and Congratulations on the happy and memorable occasion of its Bicentenary celebrations.

The noble work of the Royal Society of Arts through two centuries "for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce in Great Britain" demands that kindred Societies working within that large field should pay their tribute at this time.

The ten thousand Fellows and Associates of the Royal Society of Medicine are happy that their President should participate in these Celebrations, and they take this opportunity of expressing their admiration of the fine achievements of the Royal Society of Arts in the past and their earnest hope for the furtherance of its high scientific and humanitarian ideals in the future.

The Institution of Civil Engineers (1818)

MR. W. P. SHEPHERD-BARRON, T.D., M.C. President

We, on behalf of the members of The Institution of Civil Engineers, desire to tender to The Royal Society of Arts a sincere expression of our cordial congratulations on the occasion of the Bicentenary Celebrations of the Foundation of the Society on the 22nd March, 1754.

As a Body founded for the "Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce in Great Britain", The Royal Society of Arts, since its inception, has performed a work of great importance and value in furthering and fostering the development and advancement of all aspects of the Arts, not only in Great Britain but also within the territories of many countries abroad.

It is the earnest wish of the members of The Institution of Civil Engineers that The Royal Society of Arts may long continue to prosper, and they heartily welcome this opportunity to offer their best wishes for the future success and progress of the work of the Society and the consequent cultural benefits.

The Royal Astronomical Society (1820)

DR. JOHN JACKSON, C.B.E., F.R.S. President

By the delivery of this Address the President, Council and Fellows of the Royal

Astronomical Society take pleasure in conveying to their colleagues of the Royal Society of Arts their greetings and congratulations on this most auspicious Anniversary.

Astronomers the world over are conscious of their debt to your Society in diffusing, to a wider audience than their own more specialized associations can reach, that knowledge of the Universe which it is their object to conserve and to increase. There can be few of the major astronomical discoveries of the past two centuries that have not been expounded before your Society, often by those directly responsible for the advances they describe. Nor will astronomers forget that one of their most widely-used tools, the achromatic refracting telescope, was developed by one of your early Fellows under your Society's benign auspices. And to this day, amongst those Prizes the institution of which has perhaps been your most distinctive contribution to public service is one awarded annually for the improvement of a useful Art which may still be claimed as applied Astronomy, the science of Navigation.

On this happy occasion all men of science no less than of art will be paying tribute to the distinguished record of your Society and to the memory of those illustrious men amongst your Fellows who have contributed to its lasting fame. In this tribute British astronomers whole-heartedly join in the hope that the Royal Society of Arts may long continue to serve the high purpose with which its founders endowed it two hundred years ago.

The Royal Scottish Society of Arts (1821)

MR. ROBERT W. PLENDERLEITH President

We, the President, Council and Fellows of the Royal Scottish Society of Arts rejoice with the Royal Society of Arts on the occasion of the Bicentenary of its foundation and offer our congratulations.

We witness, with great satisfaction, an accomplishment which could only come from the pursuit of the highest ideals of service to the community.

In stimulating inventive genius and promoting originality in design, the Royal Society of Arts has continued during two hundred years to foster those creative talents by which alone man can improve his estate and the well-being of his fellows. It is by such encouragement that British people in the homeland and overseas have been enabled to maintain a leading place in industrial progress and in the development of the useful arts.

We appreciate, also, the important part which the Society has played in bringing before the public, advances in science, art and technology.

The Royal Scottish Society of Arts which has pursued similar aims in Scotland during the lesser period of one hundred and thirty-three years, has especial gratification in the many outstanding achievements of the Royal Society of Arts throughout its long history and foresees progressive growth in its prestige and beneficent influence upon civilisation and human behaviour.

The Royal Academy of Music (1822)

MAJOR-GENERAL R. L. BOND, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. Chairman, Committee of Management

We, the President and Governing Bodies of The Royal Academy of Music desire to express to the Council of The Royal Society of Arts our sincere congratulations upon the completion of the Society's Bicentenary.

The Royal Society of Arts during the past two hundred years has achieved an illustrious position in the national life and has become inseparably linked with the development and history of the arts and sciences.

It is our earnest hope that the Society may long continue to enjoy its proud position and to play its distinguished part in the artistic life of this country.

The Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland (1823)

SIR RICHARD WINSTEDT, K.B.E., C.M.G. Director

The Council of this Society desires me to convey to the Royal Society of Arts felicitations on its Bicentenary, and to express its sense of the eminent services rendered by a Society that has not only itself advanced the cause of arts and commerce in Great Britain by such various means and in so many directions but has also played a part in the inception of such distinguished bodies as the Royal Academy of Arts and the Royal College of Music.

The Council would add its best wishes for the future of a Society that by its many-sided activities has done so much for humanity.

The Royal Geographical Society (1830)

MR. J. M. WORDIE, C.B.E. President

The President and Council of the Royal Geographical Society are happy to be able to convey to the Royal Society of Arts their most cordial congratulations on the celebration of the Bicentenary of its foundation.

During its long and distinguished life, the Royal Society of Arts has performed most valuable work in fostering the application of science to industry, including branches of special interest to the Royal Geographical Society. We recall the premiums it awarded in its early years for maps of English counties, and its continuing contributions to the development of British Overseas territories, of which the introduction by Captain Bligh of the bread-fruit tree and other plants into the West Indies and the encouragement of John Macarthur in developing the Australian wool trade are outstanding examples. We recall, too, its initiative in originating the Great Exhibition of 1851.

The Royal Geographical Society, in wishing the Royal Society of Arts a long and prosperous future, is confident that the third century of its history will be as distinguished as its first two hundred years.

The British Association for the Advancement of Science (1831)

DR. E. D. ADRIAN, O.M., P.R.S. President

The President, Council and Members of the British Association for the Advancement of Science desire to offer to the President, Council and Members of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce their sincere congratulations on the occasion of the Bicentenary of the Society's foundation.

Established without ostentation at a time when only two National Societies were in existence, the Royal Society of Arts has an illustrious and unique record of achievement of a pioneer character in industry, commerce, art, science, technology and agriculture. Not the least of those achievements has been the starting of enterprises which have had independent development, leaving the Society free to direct continuing energy and originality into new ventures of public importance.

The Members of the British Association welcome this opportunity to convey an expression of their most cordial good wishes for continued prosperity and success in the wide field of endeavour to which the Society is committed.

The Royal Institute of British Architects (1834)

MR. HOWARD ROBERTSON, M.C., A.R.A. President

The President, Council and Members of the Royal Institute of British Architects extend their cordial greetings and congratulations to The Royal Society of Arts on this twenty-second day of March, 1954, the Bicentenary of the Society's foundation.

The work of the Royal Society over two hundred years of its existence in the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce in Great Britain has conferred innumerable benefits upon both the people of this country and those living overseas.

We extend our sincere good wishes for the future and the continuation of this work, so closely related to our own aims in its service for the common good.

The Royal College of Art (1837)

MR. ROBIN DARWIN, C.B.E. Principal

Instead of an address, Mr. Robin Darwin presented a chairman's gavel (of which a photograph appears on page 356) bearing on its end the following inscription:

R.S.A.
MDCCLIV—MCMLIV
HUNC MALLEOLUM
ORDINIS SIGNUM
DONO DEDIT
R.C.A.

The Royal Agricultural Society of England (1838)

MR. H. A. BENYON Deputy President

We, the Members of Council of the Royal Agricultural Society of England express to you, on the occasion of the Bicentenary celebration of the formation of your Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce in Great Britain, ceremonious and most cordial congratulations.

We recall with respect and esteem that your Society preceded by eighty-four years the formation of our Society and in those years among the many objectives of your Society none was more zealously pursued than the fostering of agriculture as the most important of the practical arts. Indeed, the activities of your Society and its interest in this great industry of agriculture set a shining example for our Society to follow.

In particular, we recall that throughout the latter half of the eighteenth century, agriculture occupied the most prominent place among the premiums offered annually by your Society, and that a wealth of information was recorded and diffused to aid immeasurably the progress of agricultural science and practice. The efforts of your Society encouraged the specialized cultivation of grass seed, the introduction into England of the swede and mangold, and the use of mechanical power by promoting the development of such farm implements and machinery as the plough, cultivator, seed drill, thrashing machine, chaff-cutter, harrows and rolls.

Among the many other subjects of your early interest were the reclamation of land from the sea, cultivation of waste land, rotation of crops, irrigation, destruction of insect pests, and the preservation of meat by freezing.

By the middle of the last century the population had increased at a rate that was outstripping the growth of our natural resources and the problem of food supply was especially urgent; the unexampled rapidity with which cultivations had advanced was largely due to the encouragement and protection conferred by your institution when it was mainly an agricultural society and the principal one in the country.

We express on behalf of all our Members, as the Society succeeding to your agricultural interest, the earnest wish that the Royal Society of Arts, with whom we have always been privileged to enjoy amicable relations, may long continue to effect valuable contributions in its wide field of activities as it has done so successfully throughout the two centuries since its inception.

The Chemical Society (1841)

PROFESSOR C. K. INGOLD, F.R.S. President

We, the President, Council and Fellows of the Chemical Society, send you our warmest greetings and felicitations on the occasion of the celebration of the Bicentenary of the foundation of the Royal Society of Arts.

From its earliest days, under the leadership of some of the most distinguished men of their time, your Society has played a worthy part in the progress of Arts and of knowledge, and in their application for the benefit of the community.

We recall with pride that our own Society owes its origin to a meeting convened on February 23rd, 1841, at the Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi. Moreover, in its early years, the Chemical Society continued to enjoy the hospitality of your rooms for its meetings.

We earnestly hope that the Royal Society of Arts will continue, in the third century of its existence, to flourish and to contribute, in ever increasing measure, to the well-being and the prosperity of mankind.

The Institution of Mechanical Engineers (1847)

MR. A. C. HARTLEY, C.B.E. Past President

The President, Council and Members of The Institution of Mechanical Engineers send Greetings and have great pleasure in conveying to the Royal Society of Arts their cordial and sincere congratulations on the occasion of the two hundredth anniversary of the foundation of the Society. There can be few societies which combine such a long history of continued activity with a record of such distinguished service for the general welfare of art, industry, science and for the community as a whole. Your Society, which this year is honoured by the Presidency of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, can with legitimate pride look back upon magnificent achievements in promoting the arts and sciences since 1754. In that year the formation of the Society was supported by such illustrious persons as the Duke of Marlborough, the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, the Duke of Rockingham, the Earl of Shaftesbury, Robert Clive, and Samuel Johnson.

The Institution of Mechanical Engineers in presenting to the Royal Society of Arts its congratulations and felicitations do so in the confident belief that in the future the Society will continue its advancement and usefulness.

The Institute of Actuaries (1848)

MR. R. J. KIRTON Senior Vice-President

It is with great pleasure that the Council of the Institute of Actuaries has accepted your invitation to be represented at the celebration of your Bicentenary. The Institute most warmly felicitates the Royal Society of Arts on this distinguished occasion and sends cordial greetings and good wishes.

The Royal Society of Arts has an illustrious record of service to the cause of education in this country. The quality of a civilization depends in large measure upon the promotion of a widespread appreciation of the arts of mankind and especially upon the encouragement of talent and ability in order that they may find expression and fulfilment in creative work. Throughout its history, the Royal Society of Arts has been energetically engaged in the pursuit of these great ideals and has tirelessly endeavoured to uphold the traditions and standards of British culture.

The Council of the Institute of Actuaries is gratified to have this opportunity of paying its tribute to a great national institution. May the Royal Society of Arts long continue to prosper.

The Victoria and Albert Museum (1852)

SIR LEIGH ASHTON Director.

On the occasion of the Bicentenary of the Royal Society of Arts it is with the greatest pleasure that the Victoria and Albert Museum offers its warmest congratulations. The aims of the Society are closely related to those which provided the reason for the foundation of the Museum. We may legitimately regard ourselves as under a deep obligation to the Royal Society of Arts for it was due to the Society that the Great Exhibition of 1851, under the auspices of the Society's President, the Prince Consort, came into being. From the profits of that Exhibition funds were provided for our creation.

It is therefore as one of the larger enterprises fostered by your Society that the Victoria and Albert Museum tenders its congratulations on your Bicentenary.

The Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain (1853)

MR. BERTRAM SINKINSON President

The President, Council and Members of the Royal Photographic Society have great pleasure in presenting their warmest congratulations to the Royal Society of Arts upon the occasion of the Bicentenary of its foundation on the 22nd March 1754.

We recall with pride and gratitude that it was from the Royal Society of Arts that our own Society derived its first inspiration 100 years ago.

May your undoubted influence in the sphere of art, education, industry and commerce over the past two hundred years continue to grow with increasing success, so that the fine traditions of your Society may be still further enhanced and the high purpose for which the Royal Society of Arts was founded be even more abundantly fulfilled.

The British Horological Institute (1858)

SIR HAROLD SPENCER JONES, F.R.S., ASTRONOMER-ROYAL President

We, the President and Council of the British Horological Institute desire to congratulate the President and Council of the Royal Society of Arts on the occasion of the Bicentenary of the Society, and on the valuable work which this Society, founded for the encouragement of arts, manufactures, and commerce in Great Britain, has accomplished since its inception in 1754. The British Horological Institute which is concerned with the encouragement and development of a craft to which British inventive genius has contributed so greatly, is proud to be an Institute in Association with the Royal Society of Arts.

We express the hope that the work of the Society will move from strength to strength in the furtherance of the great work that has been its object for the past two hundred years.

The Institution of Naval Architects (1860)

SIR CHARLES LILLICRAP, K.C.B., M.B.E. Chairman of Council

The President, Council and Members of The Institution of Naval Architects convey their warmest congratulations to the Royal Society of Arts on the occasion of the Society's 200th Anniversary.

There is no other body to whom the Institution of Naval Architects is more indebted, for it was within the walls of your Society in 1860 that a group of distinguished naval architects and marine engineers first met under the leadership of John Scott Russell, to lay the foundations of our own Institution.

For many years thereafter the Royal Society of Arts continued to afford hospitality and facilities to The Institution of Naval Architects for the reading discussion and recording of scientific papers relating to the art of Shipbuilding.

It is, therefore, with great pleasure that on the occasion of its 200th anniversary we express to the Royal Society of Arts not only gratitude for past support and encouragement, but our intense admiration of the Society's valuable contribution to the development of the arts and commerce over such a long period, and our confidence in the Society's future prosperity.

The Royal Aeronautical Society (1866)

SIR WILLIAM FARREN, C.B., M.B.E. President

I bring you our Greetings and Congratulations for the past years and, for the future, our good wishes. We congratulate you not on age alone, though a Bicentenary is, in itself, a great achievement, but on the freshness and vitality of the spirit which inspires all your activities.

Two hundred years ago your founders believed that in the Arts there was an unlimited field for your activities. Time has proved that they were wise. In your discussions, you embrace the Sciences, proving that it is only by the union of Sciences and Arts that we progress.

Our Society is indebted to you for your hospitality during the first 70 years of our existence, when we met in your Rooms. For this help we thank you. It is a pleasure for me to find myself once again in what is surely one of the most notable meeting places in London, and to offer you this recognition of your magnificent record.

The East India Association (1866)

SIR FRANCIS LOW Secretary

The East India Association, the oldest organization in the Conference of Empire Societies, has always appreciated the close ties existing between the Royal Society of Arts and the three countries which formerly constituted the Indian Empire.

For nearly two centuries the Royal Society of Arts has given attention to the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce in what are now the independent countries of India, Pakistan and Burma. From 1886 to 1948 there was a separate Indian Section, now merged into the Commonwealth Section. The list of papers read by recognized authorities at meetings arranged by this Section has been remarkably comprehensive. The East India Association has had the opportunity in recent years of co-operating with the Society in respect of these papers.

To an outstanding extent men who have rendered distinguished service in the Indian sub-Continent have played an active part in the work of the Society as Members of the Council, and a number of them have been Chairmen of that body.

The Council of the East India Association express the confident hope that the Royal Society of Arts will continue its interest in the welfare of India, Pakistan and Burma during the third century upon which it now enters.

The Royal Empire Society (1868)

SIR LANCELOT GRAHAM, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E. Chairman of Council

The Council and Fellows of the Royal Empire Society desire to offer their congratulations to the Royal Society of Arts on the occasion of the celebration of the Bicentenary of a Learned Society of pre-eminent distinction. The scope of the activities of your Society, founded as it was 'for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce,' is so all-embracing that it might almost have been questioned whether there was room for the creation subsequently of any Fellowship claiming to be a Learned Society within any part of the sphere occupied by you. By contrast the scope of our Society is limited by its Royal Charter of

1882 to the promotion of the 'increase and diffusion of knowledge respecting as well Our Colonies, Dependencies and Possessions, as Our Indian Empire, and the preservation of a permanent union between the Mother Country and the various parts of the British Empire.' It might seem an impertinence on the part of a Society as relatively youthful as ours to venture to offer to a Society its senior by more than a century any form of congratulation. We on our part having had occasion to study the fine volume in which under the authorship of one of your distinguished Secretaries, the late Sir Henry Wood, is set out the history of the first century and a half of the life of your Society, have found it no easy task to express our commendation of your achievements; yet encouraged by the sympathy which links one Royal Society with another we have thought fit, as our tribute to you, first to repeat those majestic lines of Lucretius in which your historian found a description, as noble as it was apt, of the multifariousness of your aims: and thereafter to present to you our rendering thereof:

*Navigia atque agri culturas moenia leges
arma vias vestes et cetera de genere horum,
praemia, delicias quoque vitae funditis omnis,
carmina picturas, et daedala signa polita,
usus et impigrae simul experientia mentis
paulatim docuit pedetemptim progredientis.
sic unumquicquid paulatim protrahit aetas
in medium ratioque in luminis erigit oras.
namque alid ex alio clarescere corde videbant,
artibus ad summum donec venere cacumen.*

Idem Anglice redditum:—

The sail, the plough, the towered cities' laws,
Arms, fabrics, roads, and othersuch as these—
Next lovely treasures of the inner life,
Poesy, painting, and smooth statuary—
Long practice urged by ever-restless Thought
Slowly and slowly step by step revealed,
Each singly learnt from Time and Reasoning.
Men saw the light begetting light from light
And climbed through Arts to high achievement's peak.

Greatly admiring the spirit of devotion with which you have held fast to your high purposes, we as a younger sister offer this tribute for your acceptance.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (1868)

MR. G. A. COOMBE, M.C. President

To the Royal Society of Arts:

The Council and Members of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors send greetings to the Council and Members of The Royal Society of Arts on the memorable occasion of the Bicentenary of its foundation.

The Royal Society of Arts to-day fills an unique position as the Nation's only specialised Society. By its encouragement of discussion and research on the multifarious and important subjects coming within its wide field of the arts, manufactures and commerce, the Society has inspired progress in all branches of practical knowledge both at home and throughout the Commonwealth. Its activities have had an important beneficial effect upon social change during the last two centuries.

The Council and Members of The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors all over the world send congratulations to your venerable Society, and their good wishes for a future as distinguished as its past.

The Institution of Electrical Engineers (1871)

MR. H. BISHOP, C.B.E. President

The Institution of Electrical Engineers sends cordial greetings and congratulations to The Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce on the occasion of the celebration of the Bicentenary of its foundation, and to these are joined sincere good wishes for its continued well being and progress.

This Bicentenary constitutes a significant milestone in the developing application of the arts and sciences to industry and affords an opportunity for The Institution of Electrical Engineers to place on record its high appreciation of the work of The Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce as exemplified by the record of its activities and achievement.

The Institution joins with The Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce in efforts to promote the advancement of the engineering sciences and their applications, and it is accordingly with much pleasure that the Council of The Institution have deputed the President, Mr. H. Bishop, C.B.E., B.Sc.(Eng.), M.I.E.E., to represent The Institution at the Bicentenary celebration.



*Presentation by Sir Frederick Handley Page
(The City and Guilds of London Institute)*

The Physical Society (1873)

DR. A. C. MENZIES Vice-President

The President and Council of the Physical Society have the Honour to present cordial congratulatory greetings on behalf of the two thousand Fellows of the Society, on the great and auspicious occasion of the Bicentenary of the Foundation of the Royal Society of Arts.

Founded in 1754 by eight influential men of character and vision with the avowed object of promoting knowledge of the liberal arts and manufactures, your Society has had great direct and perhaps greater indirect, influence on the outlook, knowledge and methods of those whom it has so successfully reached. Your methods have been skilfully varied to suit the times, and to-day, at the opening of your third century, you are distinguished for your Exhibitions, lectures, commercial examinations and many other activities of great progressional value.

You have ever kept your eyes looking out and forward, so that you are as mindful of the impact of the Sciences, as of the Arts, in your commercial and industrial spheres of influence.

Our very best wishes go out to you for the many years of great work which we are persuaded lie before you . . . *ad multos annos*.

We invite you to receive this, our address, at the hands of our trusted Fellow and Vice-President, Dr. A. C. Menzies.

The City and Guilds of London Institute (1878)

SIR FREDERICK HANDLEY PAGE, C.B.E. Chairman of Council

The City and Guilds of London Institute to the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts Manufactures and Commerce.

The Council of the Institute send cordial greetings and good wishes to the President, Council and Fellows of the Royal Society of Arts on the occasion of the Society's Bicentenary.

The Institute recalls with deep satisfaction that the Society was founded in time to play an important part in shaping the destiny of this country during and since the time of the industrial revolution. Through patient example and persistent endeavour during two hundred years the Royal Society of Arts has been a stimulating cultural influence of great benefit to the Nation.

In tracing the development of British manufacture one sees the Society as a beacon, giving both light and guidance to those finding their way to industrial success through the application of artistic skill and of scientific knowledge to their own efforts.

The Institute, a far younger body, takes pride in the Society's ideals and achievements, and remembers with satisfaction the opportunity they were given by the Society for developing a system of examinations in crafts and technology which has now become of importance in assessing competence in many branches of industry.

Working along somewhat parallel paths in developing applied art and applied science for the benefit of the industrial effort of the Country the City and Guilds of London Institute desires to give special warmth to their greetings on this memorable occasion.

The Institute of Bankers (1879)

MR. A. H. ENSOR President

The Institute of Bankers offers warm and sincere congratulations to the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce on the occasion of the Society's Two-hundredth Anniversary.

During two fateful yet fruitful centuries the Society has established and steadfastly upheld a tradition of encouraging, in an ever-widening field, the development of the arts in all their forms and, through that development, of giving expression to the cultural needs and desires of a growing community.

The Institute of Bankers is proud to be among the many who offer their tribute on this high occasion.

May the Royal Society of Arts long continue to flourish!

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (1880)

MR. JAMES BLAKEY President

The Fellows and Associates of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales through their President and Council send greetings and warm congratulations to the Members of the Royal Society of Arts on the occasion of the Bicentenary of the Society and tender their good wishes for the continuing well-being of the Society.

Given under the Common Seal of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales this 3rd day of March, 1954.

The Society of Chemical Industry (1881)

SIR WILLIAM OGG President

The President and Council of the Society of Chemical Industry on behalf of the general body of members send cordial greetings to the Royal Society of Arts on the completion of two centuries of active endeavour in the welfare of the community.

They recall with pride that the Society's own origin is in part derived from the Chemical Section of the Royal Society of Arts which was discontinued in 1887 six years after the Society of Chemical Industry was founded, and that its own Food Group was preceded by the Food Committee set up in 1866.

The Society of Chemical Industry congratulates the Royal Society of Arts on its great achievements and looks forward with confidence to still further benefits for mankind during the years to come.

The Royal College of Music (1883)

MR. CHARLES MORLEY Vice-President and Honorary Secretary

The President and Council of the Royal College of Music desire to express to the President and Council of the Royal Society of Arts their sincere congratulations and good wishes on the occasion of the Bicentenary of the Society.

For two hundred years the Royal Society of Arts has taken a distinguished part in the life of the nation, particularly in the development of the arts and sciences. The founding of this College was the Society's intimate concern, and stands as an example of its vision and artistic enterprise. It is earnestly hoped that the Royal Society of Arts may long continue so ably to encourage and lead in the development of the artistic growth of the nation.

(Signed by The President,

HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH, THE QUEEN MOTHER.)

The Imperial Institute (1887)

SIR GRIFFITH WILLIAMS, K.B.E., C.B. Vice-Chairman, Board of Governors

It gives me much pleasure to congratulate the Chairman and Council of the Royal Society of Arts on the celebration of the Bicentenary of the Society.

At the time of the foundation of the Imperial Institute in 1893 Fellows of the Society, in answer to an appeal by the Council, contributed very generously to a special Society of Arts Fund for the Institute. Many of the objects of the Institute were similar in character to those of the Society, and the Society was represented

on its first Board of Governors. For the past sixty years the two bodies have worked together in close harmony.

Possibly of greatest interest to the Institute has been the valuable work of the Commonwealth Section of the Society, which has provided a forum for the discussion of developments overseas. On many occasions in the past Meetings of this Section provided an opportunity for members of the Institute's scientific staff to report on their own investigations and experiences, and the subsequent publication of their papers in the *Journal of the Society* served to bring their work to the notice of a much wider public.

I wish the Society many more years of valued service and prosperity.

(Signed by the Chairman, Board of Governors,
The Right Honble. Viscount Hudson of Pewsey, P.C., C.H.)

The Royal Drawing Society (1888)

MR. R. R. TOMLINSON President

The Royal Drawing Society warmly congratulates the President, Chairman and Members of the Royal Society of Arts on the attainment of the Bicentenary of their Society.

To have existed for two hundred years is, in itself, an achievement but the Society has done much more than stand the test of time. Its activities have covered so wide a field and its achievements have been so outstanding that it is no exaggeration to say that there are few, if any, persons in the community who have not benefited by its efforts. Art, Science, Industry, Commerce, Education, Agriculture, Forestry and Philanthropy have all come within its purview and the advances in knowledge for which it is responsible have been of the greatest service to the nation and indeed to humanity at large.

The Royal Drawing Society, which itself owes its foundation sixty-six years ago to a drawing master, the late Thomas Robert Ablett, pays its tribute of respect and admiration to the great Society founded by the drawing master William Shipley two-hundred years ago. It wishes the Royal Society of Arts, so venerable in point of years but so young and active still in spirit, a long and prosperous continuance of its beneficent activities and that they may shed no less lustre on the Society in the years to come than its splendid record of service has done in the past.

The Museums Association (1889)

SIR LEIGH ASHTON President

On the occasion of the Bicentenary of the Royal Society of Arts it is with the greatest pleasure that the Museums Association of Great Britain offers its warmest congratulations.

With its varied enterprises the Society probably made no more important contribution to the work of museums than in the project of the Great Exhibition of 1851. The stimulus then given to museum work in general has largely resulted in the expansion of museums to the provinces and it was expressly due to the idea of the Prince Consort, then President of the Society, that this cultural expansion took place.

It is therefore with special pleasure that the Museums Association offers its congratulations on this memorable occasion.

The Chartered Institute of Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies and other Public Bodies (1891)

DR. A. M. ALLEN Secretary

At a meeting of the Council of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies and other Public Bodies held in the City of London on the first day of December, 1953, it was resolved:

That the Council record its congratulations to the Royal Society of Arts on the attainment of its Bicentenary.

A pioneer in the development and application of science in connexion with the arts and commerce, and in many fields of education, the Society has for a century conducted examinations in commercial subjects, which have been of the greatest value to the country's business efficiency and to the secretarial profession.

It has made outstanding contributions to the development of industry and commerce in many British possessions overseas, and has initiated many humanitarian projects.

On behalf of 23,000 members in all parts of the Commonwealth, the Council of the Institute wishes the Royal Society of Arts continued success in its distinguished contribution to the welfare of the nation.

The Royal African Society (1901)

THE RIGHT HONBLE. LORD HAILEY, P.C., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E. Vice-Chairman of Council

I am desired by the Council of The Royal African Society to convey to you, on the occasion of the 200th Anniversary of the foundation of the Royal Society of Arts this Society's very sincere congratulations.

Few Institutions of similar aims can look back with greater pride on so illustrious a record of public service.

The Council and Members of The Royal African Society earnestly hope that the celebrations of the Bicentenary will be highly successful, and that the Royal Society of Arts may long continue with increasing power to carry on its valuable work for the advancement of knowledge.

The Royal Central Asian Society (1901)

GENERAL SIR JOHN SHEA, G.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O. President

On this memorable occasion, The Royal Central Asian Society wishes to add its congratulations to those of the many other specialist and smaller Societies which owe not a little to The Royal Society of Arts for its example and encouragement.

When 200 years ago this Royal Society was founded, it could not have foreseen the variety of subjects which would be debated, discussed and sponsored within its gracious and beautiful building by so many eminent and distinguished personages.

Many of the specialized Societies now undertake the work which has resulted from seeds sown by this Society. Nevertheless the Royal Society of Arts has not in any sense narrowed or reduced its spheres of enterprise and encouragement.

It is the earnest wish of the Royal Central Asian Society that this Royal Society of Arts under its distinguished Royal President continues, strengthened and supported in its endeavours, to occupy its unique position as a centre of learning and of encouragement in the arts and humanities generally.

The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (1904)

MISS FLORA ROBSON, C.B.E. Deputy President

In presenting this Address to the Royal Society of Arts on the occasion of its Bicentenary Festival, the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, now in its Jubilee Year, begs to offer congratulations on its own behalf and on behalf of the British Theatre.

In 1930, after four Appeals, the Academy obtained a Judgment that Acting should be recognized in Law as a Fine Art. That David Garrick was one of your early Members seems to endorse the validity of this Judgment.

The Royal Society of Arts has in its history reflected the Spirit of Civilisation in which abiding belief in sound moral principles is allied to flexibility of outlook.

THE CONGRATULATORY ADDRESSES

It has only been possible to reproduce a few of the addresses presented and of these sometimes only a part. Many of them were provided with elaborate mounts: the one shown on page 352 was partly engraved in 'Perspex' and decorated with gilded metal bosses.



THE Royal College of Physicians of London send by the hands of their President cordial and sincere congratulations to the Royal Society of Arts on the two hundredth anniversary of its foundation.

The President and Council of the
ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC

desire to express

to the President and Council of the

ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS

their sincere congratulations

and good wishes

on the occasion of the bi-centenary of the Society.

FOR TWO HUNDRED YEARS THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS has taken a distinguished part in the life of the nation, particularly in the development of the arts and sciences. The founding of the College was the Society's intimate concern, and stands as an example of its vision and artistic enterprise. It is earnestly hoped that the Royal Society of Arts may long continue in ability to encourage and lead in the development of the artistic growth of the nation.

Elizabeth R.
PRESIDENT



THE PRESIDENT, Council & Members
of the Royal Institute of British Architects
extend their cordial greetings & congratulations
To
THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS

March 22nd
1754



March 22nd
1954

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE
ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS
the Members of Council of the
ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
OF ENGLAND

express to you, on the occasion of the bi-centenary celebration of the formation
of your Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce in
Great Britain, ceremonious and most cordial congratulations.

The Royal Academy of Arts to the ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS

Let me congratulate the Royal Society of Arts on the completion of its second century of distinguished enterprise, the Royal Academy remembers that it was in 1760, under the auspices of your Society, that the first public Exhibition of works by living artists was held in London. It was in no small measure due to the success of that pioneering venture, revealing the opportunities & advantages of similar, annual, Exhibitions, that eight years later our own Society was founded.

The name of Sir Joshua Reynolds, our first President, had already in 1762, appeared among the signatures of the first Subscription Book of the Royal Society of Arts, and we are proud to recall that in more recent times our Society collaborated in the Exhibition of British Art in Industry, held at the Royal Academy in 1935, an Exhibition which stimulated widespread interest in British design.

The Members of the Royal Academy express their profound appreciation of the many services to artists rendered by the Royal Society of Arts in the past, and are confident that in the future, both in the sphere of art and in your broader responsibilities, the community will continue to benefit from your encouragement of merit and initiative.

President

March 22nd 1954

Cecil Kelly



The members of the Council of the CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF SECRETARIES OF JOINT STOCK COMPANIES and other PUBLIC BODIES held in the City of London on the first day of December 1953, it was resolved: —————

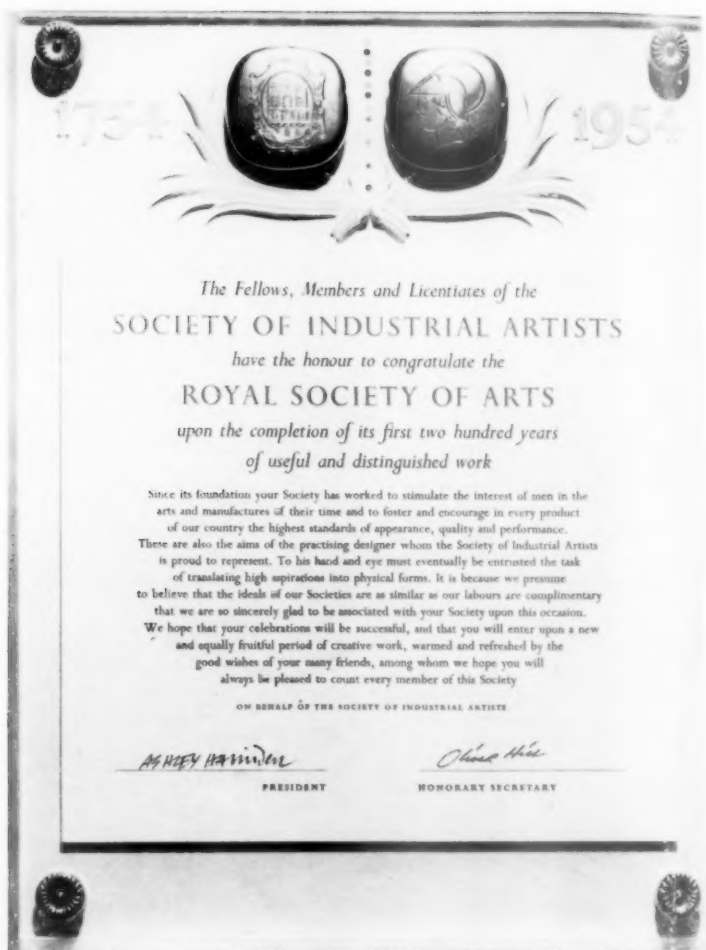
THAT the Council record its congratulations to the ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS on the attainment of its bicentenary. —————
A pioneer in the development and application of science in connexion with the arts and commerce, and in many fields of education, the Society has for a century conducted examinations in commercial subjects, which have been of the greatest value to the country's business efficiency and to the secretarial profession. —————
It has made outstanding contributions to the development of industry and commerce in many British possessions overseas, and has initiated many humanitarian projects. —————
On behalf of 75,000 members in all parts of the Commonwealth, the Council of the Institute wishes the Royal Society of Arts continued success in its distinguished contribution to the welfare of the nation. —————

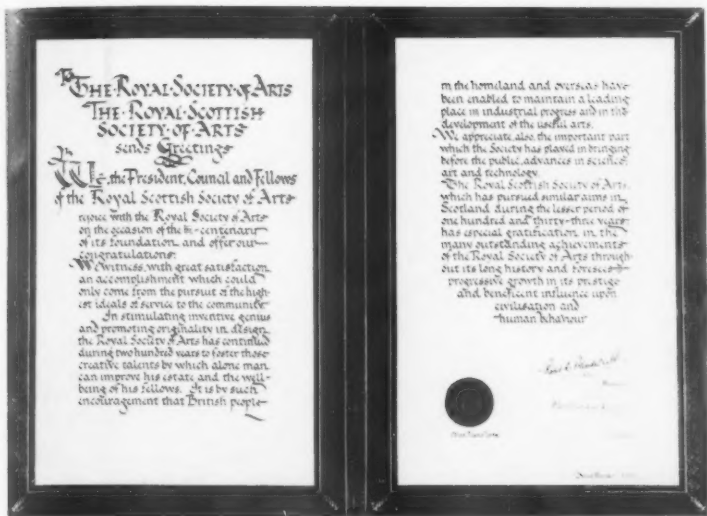
R. Bruce Wetherby

A. C. Kinn

President

Secretary









THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS

FROM THE ROYAL DUBLIN SOCIETY.

On the occasion of the celebration of the Bicentenary of the Foundation of the Royal Society of Arts the Royal Dublin Society offers its warmest congratulations to its contemporary and kindred society.

THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

FOUNDED AT PHILADELPHIA

FOR PROMOTING USEFUL KNOWLEDGE

Sends Cordial Greetings to

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS

On the Occasion of the

TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY

of its Foundation.

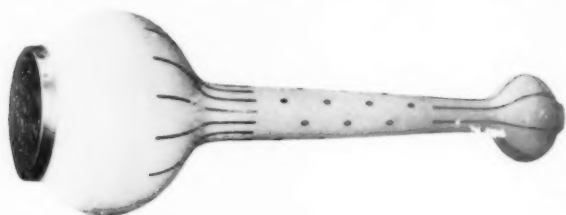
THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS

22nd March 1954

On the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the Royal Society of Arts the Board of Svenska Slöjdförbundet is pleased to award to the Society as a warm token of the Society's work its Grand Medal instituted on the 25th anniversary of Svenska Slöjdförbundet on 6th October, 1870.
Stockholm 22nd March 1954

Per Olof Johansson
CHAIRMAN

John L. Johnson
MANAGING DIRECTOR



Top: the Chairman's gavel of ivory, inlaid with gold, presented by the Royal College of Art; centre: the twelve-inch, black and mahogany, bone-china plate presented by the Royal Designers for Industry; bottom: the Grand Medal awarded by the Svenska Slöjdföreningen

which is able to discern the creative imagination of the time. Interaction between past Tradition and future Accomplishment is so intimate that it is often over-looked, and such incomprehension blights judgement.

The influence of the Royal Society of Arts has tended continuously to maintain through 200 years a balance between Originality and Tradition which Testifies to the wisdom of its Inception and Development.

The Royal India, Pakistan & Ceylon Society (1910)

SIR WILLIAM BARTON, K.C.I.E., C.S.I. Vice-President

The Royal India Pakistan and Ceylon Society was founded in 1910 for the purpose of promoting a better understanding of the culture of the Indian sub-continent, and those parts of Asia whose art was influenced thereby.

The Society has always admired the work of the Royal Society of Arts in the same wide field. The Sir George Birdwood Memorial Lecture has had this object steadily in view, and has been of special interest to members who belong to both organisations.

The Royal India Pakistan and Ceylon Society warmly congratulates your society on the high repute and vigour with which it enters on its Third Century, and is assured that its interest in the cultures of India, Pakistan and Ceylon and other Asian lands will be well maintained.



Presentation by Lord Esher (The London Society)

The London Society (1912)

THE RIGHT HONBLE. VISCOUNT ESHER, M.B.E. President

We the Council and Members of the London Society desire to offer our most sincere congratulations on the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the foundation of the Royal Society of Arts.

As a Society whose aim it is to stimulate a wider concern for the beauty of the Capital City, the preservation of its charms and the careful consideration of its developments we entertain a profound admiration for the great contribution rendered by the Royal Society to the Encouragement of the Fine Arts, and we pray that its activities may be continued for many years to come.

The Society of Industrial Artists (1930)

MR. ASHLEY HAVINDEN, O.B.E., R.D.I. President

The Fellows, Members and Licentiates of the Society of Industrial Artists have the honour to congratulate the Royal Society of Arts upon the completion of its first two hundred years of useful and distinguished work.

Since its foundation your Society has worked to stimulate the interest of men in the arts and manufactures of their time and to foster and encourage in every product of our country the highest standards of appearance, quality and performance. These are also the aims of the practising designer whom the Society of Industrial Artists is proud to represent. To his hand and eye must eventually be entrusted the task of translating high aspirations into physical forms. It is because we presume to believe that the ideals of our Societies are as similar as our labours are complementary that we are so sincerely glad to be associated with your Society upon this occasion. We hope that your celebrations will be successful, and that you will enter upon a new and equally fruitful period of creative work, warmed and refreshed by the good wishes of your many friends, among whom we hope you will always be pleased to count every member of this Society.

The Faculty of Royal Designers for Industry (1936)

SIR FRANCIS MEYNELL Master

Instead of an address, Sir Francis Meynell presented a plate (see page 356) bearing the inscription 'Royal Designers for Industry to the Royal Society of Arts 1754-1954: Filial Salutations March 22nd 1954'.

The Council of Industrial Design (1944)

DR. W. J. WORBOYS Chairman

I am desired to convey to you the congratulations of the Council of Industrial Design on the Bicentenary of your Society.

From its foundation in 1754 one of the declared aims of your Society has been the improvement of the design of manufactured products. It can therefore claim to be one of the oldest societies in the world to realise how much more complicated this matter would become through the introduction of machinery. Its experience of this subject covers the whole span of the industrial revolution. Very early in its life your Society saw how potent a factor the exhibition might become in introducing new ideas by selection, display and comparison, as was exemplified by the series of exhibitions of industrial design which was held before the Great Exhibition of 1851 and more recently by those at Burlington House in 1935 and 1948. Therefore it is reasonable to assume that not only were these pioneering efforts of the Royal Society of Arts carefully studied before the Government set up the Council of Industrial Design in 1944, but that it was of value when the time came to implement the policy laid down for the new body.

It is pleasing to note that time has in no way lessened your Society's interest in industrial design problems. The creation of the Faculty of Royal Designers for Industry in 1936, the Bursaries awarded to art students and designers before and since the last war in an important group of trades and the institution of the Bicentenary Medal to mark this great occasion by recognising those who, as patrons, have exerted an exceptional influence in promoting the development of design in British industry are all evidence of a strong, refreshing, persistent and youthful spirit of adventure.

As one of the youngest bodies in this field my Council is honoured to congratulate you on your achievements. I hope, and believe, that your future will be as distinguished as your past and that your great experience and prestige will long enable you to give encouragement and support to many worthy causes.

The Arts Council of Great Britain (1946)

JOSEPH COMPTON, C.B.E. Member of Executive Committee

Congratulatory Address to the Royal Society of Arts from the Arts Council on the occasion of the Bicentenary Celebrations.

The Arts Council of Great Britain, now only in its ninth year, is a very junior relation of the Royal Society of Arts. Yet it is proud to claim kinship in its policies and activities, with the educational doctrine which the Royal Society of Arts has demonstrated for two centuries.

The Arts Council of Great Britain, in its endeavours to diffuse the practice of appreciation of the fine arts is sustained by the same faith which impelled the Royal Society of Arts to promote, in 1760, the first exhibition of contemporary pictures in this country. That enlightened example of patronage, has led in our time to the abundant provision by the Arts Council of similar exhibitions in the provinces as well as the metropolis. It is of special significance, too, that one of the very first acts of the Royal Society, always realistic in its educational values, was to offer prizes first, for the discovery of cobalt in England and, second, for the production of madder: both of them essential substances in the manufacture of painters' colours. In its nourishment of the fine arts the Royal Society, has always been concerned not only with ends, but also with practical ways and means.

The Arts Council of Great Britain is privileged to be associated with ventures which the Royal Society of Arts initiated, and renews on this occasion its resolve to foster the principles which the Royal Society of Arts has so long and successfully exemplified.

The Modular Society (1953)

SIR ALFRED BOSSOM, BART., M.P. President

By the authority of the Council of the Modular Society, perhaps the youngest daughter society, having been founded in January 1953, we present greetings to the Royal Society of Arts on the occasion of its Bicentenary and look forward to a long future of high public service following the fine example of its illustrious parent.

The Modular Society is conscious that it is reviving the early tradition of the Royal Society of Arts (which stimulated the development of the Industrial Revolution in many branches of manufacture but left building almost unaffected) in addressing itself to the dimensional problem whose solution is one of the keys to its industrialisation and to speeding the erection of buildings.

In this field the Modular Society hopes to support the Royal Society of Arts in the improvement of art, commerce and manufacture, by its regard for the art of architecture, by showing how the cost of building can be lowered and by improving the manufacture of components designed for assembly into buildings.



Presentation by Sir Alfred Bosson, Bart., M.P. (The Modular Society)

OVERSEAS ORGANIZATIONS

The Royal Dublin Society (1731)

PROFESSOR F. E. HACKETT President

On the occasion of the celebration of the Bicentenary of the foundation of the Royal Society of Arts the Royal Dublin Society offers its warmest congratulations to its contemporary and kindred Society.

For two centuries our Societies have promoted closely similar objects as expressed in their original titles adapting their methods to suit altering conditions. Shortly after its foundation the Dublin Society accepted, in 1739, the proposal of Dr. Samuel Madden to give premiums for improving husbandry, manufactures and other useful arts. He became known as Premium Madden and he had the honour of being elected a Corresponding Member of your Society.

At your foundation meeting in 1754 it was resolved "to bestow premiums on a certain number of boys and girls under the age of sixteen who shall produce the best piece of drawing and show themselves most capable when properly examined, it being the opinion of all present that the Art of Drawing is absolutely necessary in many employments, trades, and manufactures." Thus began the award of premiums by your Society which continued in full vigour for almost a hundred



Presentation by Professor F. E. Hackett (The Royal Dublin Society)

years. The Industrial Art Bursaries which your Society now award show how the policy of the encouragement of industrial design still dominates its work. In the eighteenth century the conditions of the time led to an extension of the award of premiums to the Fine Arts also. Amongst your prize winners, Dublin honours the names of James Gandon and Thomas Cooley who were the designers of some of the architectural glories of Georgian Dublin. On the other hand the reputation of James Barry who passed through the School of Drawing of the Dublin Society rests on the pictures he painted for the Great Room of the Society of Arts.

The two Societies became associated in a formal manner in 1775 when a By-law was adopted: "That the President and Vice-Presidents for the time being of the London Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce shall always be considered as Honorary Members of the Dublin Society." A treasured volume in our library gives evidence of co-operation in the publication of a list of premiums offered by the Dublin Society in 1801 together with a list of those premiums of the Society of Arts which had been extended to Ireland.

Our two Societies have thus during two centuries run parallel courses promoting similar objects. Both were founded by small groups of men who gave unremunerated service to ensure that better use should be made of man's fast growing knowledge in the Arts, in Industry, and in Agriculture. Both have grown throughout the years thanks to the work of the many members who sought, not the privileges of membership, but the opportunities to serve their Society for the benefit of their country.

May the Royal Society of Arts in the coming years continue to have the creative energy given by the generous support of a wide circle of members, enabling it to carry out in suitable ways its traditional and distinctive task of the encouragement of the Arts, Manufactures and Commerce.

The American Philosophical Society (1743)

PROFESSOR VIVIAN H. GALBRAITH A Foreign Member

The American Philosophical Society, the oldest of such Bodies in the United States of America, Founded in 1743 by Benjamin Franklin may claim a special kinship with The Royal Society of Arts inasmuch as both drew inspiration and example from The Royal Society of London. Like the Royal Society of Arts, The American Philosophical Society early devoted attention to the applications of scientific knowledge and discoveries.

We find a special satisfaction in noting that the history of the Royal Society of Arts has so amply demonstrated the truth of the words in our own Charter of 1780: . . . the experience of ages shows that improvements of a public nature are best carried on by societies of liberal and ingenious men, uniting their labours in one grand pursuit . . . whereby . . . a humane and philosophical spirit is cherished . . .

May the Two Societies long labor together in this "one grand pursuit."

Subscribed to on behalf of The American Philosophical Society at Philadelphia, this twenty-sixth day of February, nineteen hundred and fifty-four.



Presentation by Herr Werner Sieveking (Patriotische Gesellschaft von 1765)

Patriotische Gesellschaft von 1765 (1765)

HERR WERNER SIEVEKING President

The Patriotische Gesellschaft von 1765 in Hamburg extends her best wishes to the Royal Society of Arts in London on the occasion of her Bicentenary.

May also in future the friendly relations of both societies be maintained in their mutual endeavours (common aim) to further work and prosperity of the citizens for happiness and peace of the peoples. (Translation given with address, see page 353.)

La Société d'Encouragement pour l'Industrie Nationale (1801)

MONSIEUR ALBERT CAQUOT, C.M.G., D.S.O., MEMBRE DE L'INSTITUT, GRAND CROIX DE LA LÉGION D'HONNEUR President

Le Président et les Membres de la Société d'Encouragement pour l'Industrie Nationale sont heureux d'apporter à la Royal Society of Arts une expression de haute estime pour l'œuvre accomplie par celle-ci depuis sa fondation en 1754.

Dès le XVIII^{ème} siècle, cette œuvre fut si remarquable que la Société fondée pour l'encouragement des Arts, Manufactures et Commerce en Grande-Bretagne servit de modèle en d'autres Pays.

Il leur est agréable de constater que la Royal Society of Arts poursuit aujourd'hui sa carrière deux fois séculaire sous la haute direction de son Altesse Royale le duc d'Edimbourg, son Président, d'une façon aussi féconde que par le passé, et qu'elle entretient avec la Société française les meilleures relations depuis plus d'un siècle.

Le Président et les Membres de la Société d'Encouragement pour l'Industrie Nationale, interprètes des milieux scientifiques et industriels français, formulent les vœux les plus chaleureux pour l'avenir de la Royal Society of Arts, pour le progrès des activités britanniques auxquelles elle consacre ses efforts et pour le développement des amitiés déjà si nombreuses entre les deux nations.

Svenska Slöjdföreningen (1845)

HERR SVERKER ÅSTRÖM Counsellor of the Royal Swedish Embassy

On the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the Royal Society of Arts the Board of Svenska Slöjdföreningen is pleased to award to the Society as a warm token of the Society's work its Grand Medal instituted on the 25th Anniversary of Svenska Slöjdföreningen on 6th October 1870.

The congratulatory address was accompanied by the Swedish Society's Grand Medal which is reproduced on page 356.

The Malta Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (1852)

CHEV. THE HONBLE. MR. JUSTICE ANTHONY J. MONTANARO-GAUCI, C.B.E. President

On the second centenary of the Foundation of the Royal Society of Arts in London, the Council and Members of the Malta Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce send you their hearty congratulations on the great achievements, good work and success of your Society throughout such a long industrious life, and express their wish and hope that your Society may yet happily complete other centuries of existence for the promotion of Art and Culture and for the benefit of Western Civilization.

The Malta Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce is ever mindful that it owes its parentage to your Society over a hundred years ago, and looks with reverence and admiration to your noble Institution for leadership and progress.

That Divine Providence may protect your great Institution, preserve its life for many centuries to come, and shower blessings over its work, is the fervent wish and prayer of the Malta Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce. May you always prosper!

When the presentations had been made, the Right Honble. Viscount Samuel, P.C., G.C.B., G.B.E., D.C.L., LL.D., D.Litt., a former Vice-President of the Society, was called upon to give the following concluding address:

My Lord Chairman, my Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I think you will all agree that this has been a deeply impressive and indeed a moving ceremony—this long procession that has passed before us. I happen to have been reading quite lately the Witches Scene in *Macbeth*, and with some difference it has called to my mind how there were invoked before the startled eyes of *Macbeth* the procession of the unborn kings. 'Why do you show me this? A fourth? . . . What, will the line stretch out to the crack of doom? Another yet? A seventh?' Here, it is true, there are, as I say, differences. There is no witchcraft. These are not the ghosts of kings unborn. These have been eminent men, substantial, arrayed in colourful garments, and bringing greetings from famous institutions, each active in its own sphere. Over fifty of them, with six others from bodies overseas, all bringing messages of congratulation and good will to one of the very few organizations in the whole world which have a record of two centuries of useful service.

This is the Royal Society of Arts and I will take those three words as my text for my short Address.

'Royal', because, although strictly independent, and stubbornly independent, of governments, the Society has ever been grateful for the encouragement and support which it has received from the Crown, which also is representative of the nation. The connection of the Prince Consort is well known. That wise and enlightened man made this Society a principal field for his beneficent activities. And to-day the Society is again honoured by the Presidency of the Queen's Consort, whose own interests are similar, but who brings to their service personal and welcome qualities of his own.

It is a society to do with the 'Arts', and the arts also as connected with manufactures and commerce. This Society has never accepted that empty and futile phrase, 'Art for Art's sake', which is supposed to exalt but, in fact, degrades its value. For we should not separate art from life. Art should express the love of beauty, although occasionally, just now, we find that that is conspicuous by its absence. But this Society holds that a love of beauty should permeate the whole of life. That is the principle that this Society has held from its very beginning. But it has also been imbued by a practical spirit, and so has been able to accomplish definite, concrete, results. I have always been impressed by the wisdom of these lines in Cowper's *Task*:

Defend me from the toil
Of dropping buckets into empty wells,
And growing old in drawing nothing up.



Lord Samuel

How often does that happen to some philosophers and to many scholars: 'dropping buckets into empty wells, and growing old in drawing nothing up'? The men who founded this Society did not do that; and the men who have maintained it, and women, and those who give service to it to-day. And as a consequence they have to show a vast and varied record of valuable achievement.

It is 'Royal', it is concerned with 'The Arts', and it is a 'Society'. It is part of that vast structure of voluntary organizations, which have been striking and significant features in our modern civilization, and of which we take too little account as integral parts of that civilization. They are not the creation of the State; they are not maintained by grants from public resources. This Society, and other such societies, are spontaneous creations of the voluntary action of independent men and women of energy and good will.

Two hundred years ago, on that other 22nd March, 1754, there were, as we have been told, eleven persons present. Now this Society has six thousand

members, and apart from all else its system of examinations has catered for the needs in a single year of well over 100,000 students.

This is an occasion for retrospect. It is a remarkable event that our Chairman of to-day is a lineal descendant of one of those eleven men, the Viscount Folkestone of that time. I think in this commemoration we must regard him as 'Exhibit No. 1', for he can in imagination link hands with his own ancestor across that gap of 200 years. And the Society has been fortunate, in spite of many vicissitudes, in meeting still in this very hall, which it is true had not been built at the beginning, but where it has held its sessions for nine tenths of those two centuries.

I have a recollection of my own with regard to this hall and, since we are bandying centuries about, I may tell you that this happened more than half a century ago when, as a young member of the House of Commons, I had the privilege of giving a lecture on Uganda, a country that was then almost unknown, in the heart of Africa, and which I had lately visited. And what was significant about that ceremony was that Sir Henry Stanley was sitting over there and at the end rose in his place and made quite a long speech proposing a vote of thanks. So there you have a link with the past—that was in March, 1903—and much to my surprise the silver medal of the Society was conferred upon me for that lecture and for my perilous adventures as a mere tourist in Uganda: and that, I need hardly say, is one of my most treasured possessions.

This is an occasion for retrospect, but not only for retrospect. Our interest in the past ought not to be only antiquarian or nostalgic. We study the past because we can find in its experience guidance for ourselves in handling the problems of the present. And we can see, looking back over history, how much the ingenuity and persistence of man has been able to accomplish for the welfare of the human race. All that should give us ourselves hope and confidence in the future. Those men of two hundred years ago had the courage and the faith to work for the future. We and our times are the future for which they were working, and their faith has been justified for, with all its faults, our present civilization has shown a great advance in the prime conditions of human welfare from the earlier centuries.

It is therefore for us in our turn to cherish that faith and that hope, to sustain that work, for the sake of the generations that are still to come.

After the Chairman of Council had thanked Lord Samuel for his speech, the company went downstairs to the Library where, as tea was served, they were able to inspect the congratulatory addresses which had been set out on screens lining the walls.



The Chairman and Miss Flora Robson looking at the Addresses

In addition to the congratulatory addresses presented at this ceremony, the following messages from other Societies have been received:

Society of Antiquaries of London

I am writing on behalf of the Council and Fellows of this Society to send their warm congratulations to the Royal Society of Arts, to which many members of this Society have belonged, on the occasion of the Bicentenary of its Foundation.

This Society appreciates the very varied and useful work inaugurated and carried out by the Royal Society of Arts during the two hundred years of its existence, and sends its best wishes for many successful years to come.

(Signed by the President, Sir James Mann.)

Incorporated Association of Architects and Surveyors

The President, the Council, and Members of this Association offer to the Royal Society of Arts their sincere felicitations on the occasion of the two-hundredth Anniversary of the Royal Society's foundation. Throughout two centuries of everchanging social and economic conditions the Royal Society of Arts has consistently upheld the ideals of its august founders—the promotion of the Arts and the Sciences. Members of the professions represented by this Association are mindful of their indebtedness to the Royal Society and desire to

express their appreciation together with their good wishes as with unabated vigour the Royal Society enters upon its third century of service to the Arts and Sciences.

The Central Association of Photographic Societies

On behalf of The Central Association of Photographic Societies, we respectfully tender our Congratulations to the Royal Society of Arts on the Occasion of its Bicentenary.

Two hundred years ago the ideals cherished by your Founders must have truly inspired their successors to encourage the Foundation of The Photographic Society nearly a century later.

To-day, the two hundred and fifty photographic societies in this Association alone constitute their own proud monument to that vision of a hundred years ago, and on behalf of all their Officers and Members we hope that your every undertaking in the future will reap a reward as rich as the gift which your predecessors bequeathed to us.

(Signed by the President, T. Herbert Jones, and by the Secretary.)

British Kinematograph Society

The British Kinematograph Society takes great pleasure in offering warmest congratulations to the Royal Society of Arts on the occasion of its Bicentenary.

It is a matter of deep satisfaction that cordial friendship and co-operation exists between the two Societies.

The influence and contribution of the Royal Society of Arts in the progress of industrial design has been world-wide. The co-ordination of artistic, scientific and technical interests is of primary importance in the use of kinematography, whether in the fields of entertainment, instruction or science. In this respect, the British Kinematograph Society is especially appreciative of the constant endeavours of the Royal Society of Arts to foster the common aims of art and industry.

It is the sincere wish of the British Kinematograph Society that the Royal Society of Arts may look forward to a future as successful and progressive as its past has been distinguished and historic.

The Architectural Association

At the last meeting of my Council mention was made of the forthcoming Bicentenary Celebrations of the Royal Society of Arts, and it was unanimously resolved that the congratulations of the Architectural Association and their most cordial good wishes for the future of the Royal Society of Arts be conveyed to your President and Council.

Members of Council also expressed their good wishes for the complete success of your Centenary Celebrations.

(Signed by the Secretary, H. J. W. Alexander.)

The Institution of Engineering Designers

It gives me great pleasure to convey my plauditory compliments to the Royal Society of Arts on reaching the Bicentenary milestone on the road of its proud history.

My Vice-Presidents and Members of Council, and indeed the entire Membership, join me in offering you the sincere congratulations and best wishes of the Institution of Engineering Designers.

(Signed by the President, Viscount Nuffield.)

The Institution of Gas Engineers

The Institution of Gas Engineers addresses to The Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce greetings and congratulations upon the celebration of the Bicentenary of its foundation.

The Institution is happy to have this opportunity of expressing its sincere appreciation of the pioneer activities of your Society in the wide and diverse fields covered by its title. These have been made more fruitful by your Society in many ways, including the organization of exhibitions (notably the Great Exhibition of 1851 under your then President, the Prince Consort), the giving of Lectures (at which some of the great scientific discoveries have been announced), the holding of examinations and the award of medals and prizes. Through its leadership and energy, it has inspired the formation of several kindred Societies concerned with the Arts and Sciences without in any way impairing its own vitality.

The Institution is proud to note that your President in this year of your Bicentenary is His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, K.G., K.T., who has greatly honoured this Institution by accepting its Honorary Life Membership.

The Institution of Gas Engineers extends to the Royal Society of Arts its warmest wishes for continued strength and successful endeavour in the third century of its distinguished life.

The Plastics Institute

The President and Council of the Plastics Institute offer their congratulations to the Royal Society of Arts on the occasion of their Two-hundredth Anniversary. These greetings are perhaps the more sincere as we are happy to include within the membership of the Plastics Institute many who are Fellows of your Society.

Representing as we do one of the younger of the cultural institutions of our land and one which is based on an industry of increasing importance, we recall with gratitude the assistance which we have received from the Royal Society of Arts during our formative years, the interest you have taken in establishing the fundamental necessity of good design as a pre-requisite of industrial progress, and in particular your recognition of the growing importance of our technology by making it a subject for your Cantor Lectures. During two centuries of intensive industrial development your Society has maintained its complete independence of thought and action, has fostered the spirit of craftsmanship in our land, and has given material assistance in cementing the union between industry and the arts.

We express the hope that the Royal Society of Arts may continue to enjoy unbroken prosperity, and may carry forward effectively the torch of knowledge into a world which now needs its light perhaps more than at any other period of its history.

COUNCIL COMMEMORATION DINNER

*held in the Hall of the Worshipful Company of
Tallow Chandlers at 7.30 p.m. on Monday,
22nd March, 1954, with the Right Honble. the
Earl of Radnor, K.C.V.O., in the Chair*

Members of Council and their guests were received by Lord and Lady Radnor in the old court room of the Tallow Chandlers Hall before proceeding to dinner.

The following Members of Council and their guests were present:

Mr. F. H. Andrews.	Lord Radnor (<i>Chairman</i>) and Lady Radnor.
Sir Alfred Bossom and Miss Ruth Holdsworth.	Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Rich.
Sir Frank Brown and Mrs. Dewar.	Mr. and Mrs. A. R. N. Roberts.
Sir Edward Crowe and Mrs. Jenks.	Mr. and Mrs. E. Munro Runtz.
Mr. Peter Le Neve Foster.	Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Russell.
Mr. and Mrs. John Gloag.	Sir Harold and Lady Saunders.
Sir Ernest and Lady Goodale.	Sir John Simonsen.
Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Hartley.	Professor L. Dudley Stamp.
Dame Caroline Haslett.	Mr. William Will and Mrs. R. S. L. Macpherson.
Dr. and Mrs. R. W. Holland.	Miss Anna Zinkeisen and Colonel Heseltine.
Sir Harry Lindsay.	Mr. K. W. Luckhurst (<i>Secretary</i>) and Mrs. Luckhurst.
Sir Francis and Lady Meynell.	Mr. R. V. C. Cleveland-Stevens (<i>Assistant Secretary</i>).
Mr. and Mrs. Oswald P. Milne.	
Lord and Lady Nathan.	
Sir William Ogg.	

After the dinner, when the loyal toast and the health of the Royal Family had been drunk, the Chairman made a short speech and the company was then entertained with a presentation by students of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (by kind permission of Sir Kenneth Barnes) of the third act of She Stoops to Conquer, by Oliver Goldsmith, who was a member of the Society.

THE BANQUET

*held at the Savoy Hotel at 8 p.m. on Friday, 26th March,
1954, with the Right Honble. the Earl of Radnor
K.C.V.O., Chairman of Council, in the Chair*

Guests began to arrive at the Embankment entrance of the hotel at 7.15 p.m. and were received by Lord and Lady Radnor in the Riverside Rooms, in which the congratulatory addresses presented on Monday, together with a number of photographs taken of the different events of the Bicentenary week, were displayed.

THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER, attended by Sir Godfrey Thomas and Mrs. Cedric Holland, arrived at 7.50 and were received

9TH APRIL 1954

THE BICENTENARY WEEK

by Lord and Lady Radnor, Mr. Munro Runtz, *past Chairman of Council*, and Mrs. Runtz, and the Secretary.

The following guests of the Society and Members of the Council were then presented to them:

The Lord Mayor of London and the Lady Mayoress (Sir Noel and Lady Vansittart Bowater), Lord and Lady Woolton, Lord and Lady Folkestone, Sir Edward Crowe and Mrs. Jenks, Mr. Peter Le Neve Foster and Miss Foster, Sir Ernest and Lady Goodale, Sir Harry Lindsay, Dr. Holland, Mrs. Luckhurst.

The Royal party then joined the rest of the company, which numbered more than 400, in the Lancaster Room. On the tables, in front of each guest, were prints from the original engraving for the invitation card for the Society's first dinner in 1756, reproduced below, placed beside the menu card, which had been specially designed and presented to the Society by the Faculty of Royal Designers for Industry. Seated at the high table were, on the right of the Chairman: H.R.H. THE DUCHESS OF GLOUCESTER, Lord Woolton, the Lady Mayoress, Dr. E. D. Adrian, Viscount Samuel, Lady Goodale, The Rev. Lewis Mervyn Charles-Edwards, Mrs. E. Munro Runtz, Monsieur Albert Caquot, Sir Harry Lindsay, Chevalier the Hon. Mr. Justice A. J. Montanaro-Gauci, Mrs. Edward Jenks, Professor F. E. Hackett, Mrs. Kleen and Sir John Cecil-Williams; on the left of the Chairman: H.R.H. THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER, the Countess of Radnor, The Lord Mayor, Dame Ninette de Valois, Sir Ernest Goodale, Lady Woolton, Sir Gerald Kelly, Mr. E. Munro Runtz, Mrs. E. D.



Adrian, Professor James Kendall, Mrs. F. E. Hackett, Sir Edward Crowe, Mr. E. Kleen, Mrs. Charles Edwards and Mr. Robert W. Plenderleith.

Before proposing the Loyal Toast, the Chairman of Council read the following telegram which he had received from Her Majesty THE QUEEN, in reply to one sent by him on behalf of the Fellows assembled at the Banquet:

I and my husband, your President, sincerely thank you and the Fellows of the Royal Society of Arts assembled at the Bicentenary Banquet of the Society this evening for your kind message of loyal greetings.

ELIZABETH R.,
Patron

Lord Radnor continued:

The second thing I want to say before giving you the toast is, that Her Majesty was our President and is now our Patron. We have perhaps an especial interest in the visit that she is now making to the Commonwealth, and I feel that you would all like me to say that we have watched with admiration and affection that triumphant progress. My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, I give you the toast, Her Majesty The Queen.

When the toast had been drunk Lord Radnor continued:

The toast I now offer you is Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, The Duke of Edinburgh our President, The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, and other Members of the Royal Family.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER, K.G., then spoke as follows:
My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very glad to be here, with the Duchess, to join in celebrating the Bicentenary of a Society with which members of my family have been so closely associated in the past, and I share in the general regret at the absence on such an occasion of your President, the Duke of Edinburgh, who takes, I know, so keen a personal interest in its many and varied activities. I think it specially fitting that we should be here to-night under the Chairmanship of Lord Radnor, whose ancestor Lord Folkestone played so prominent a part in the Society's inauguration, and subsequently became its first President.

There are three features of the Society which I should like to single out as having, in my opinion, contributed very largely to the success of its work.

The first of these is its disinterestedness. It does not, of course, seek the private gain of its members. Its most obvious characteristic is the width of its scope, and being so completely unspecialized, with no particular interest to bear constantly in mind, it can judge any matter which comes before it on the broadest grounds of whether (to quote a phrase so often used by its early members) it is for the 'public good'. One main outcome of this is that you have never felt any proprietary interest in the causes you have espoused. You have constantly assumed the role of pioneer, but once having succeeded in initiating some important new activity, you have passed it on, with all the accompanying credit, to some other and younger body.

For example, your greatest single achievement, perhaps, was to originate

the Great Exhibition of 1851. Under the leadership of the Prince Consort your Society not only conceived the idea of this the first international exhibition but drew up the broad plans and actually put the machinery in motion. Thereupon it asked for a Royal Commission to be formed, to which it handed over the whole project, and then retired into the background. Or again, I might mention the technological examinations which were initiated—I might say 'invented'—by your Society and then made over to the City and Guilds of London Institute; or the National Training School for Music, which was founded by the sole efforts of your Society and then reformed as the Royal College of Music. And I am sure Sir Gerald Kelly will agree that the series of annual summer exhibitions of the work of contemporary artists, which the Royal Academy has conducted with such distinction since 1769, was instituted by the Society of Arts nine years before.

The next quality which strikes me particularly about the work of the Royal Society of Arts is what may perhaps be called its humanity. According to your full title your object is 'the encouragement of arts, manufactures and commerce', but you have always thought of these in terms of the people engaged in them, and have sought to give encouragement to those who really merited it. This your Society did in its early days by the award of a large number of annual prizes to those who showed enterprise in industry and commerce and displayed exceptional skill in the arts, and I am glad that in certain directions you have maintained this practice of offering and awarding prizes up to the present day.

Before the war you instituted the distinction of Royal Designer for Industry, which is awarded to 'those who' (the wording runs) 'have attained to high eminence and efficiency in creative design' in their various spheres of industry, and I had the pleasure in 1938 of presenting their diplomas to the first recipients of this honour.

Then, on another level, there are your well-known examinations in commercial subjects, which provide such a useful goal for evening students; you have a scheme for the award of travelling scholarships to students of industrial design; and there are your various scholarships and grants to sea-cadets and young sailors under the Thomas Gray Memorial Trust.

In these and other ways you are bringing encouragement to many thousands of individuals every year. But the humanity of your Society goes further than this. When, for example, some twenty years ago you initiated a fund for the preservation of ancient cottages, a fundamental part of the scheme was that the lovely old cottages of the countryside should not only be saved to grace our lanes and village streets, but that they should also be as far as possible modernized and turned into comfortable homes for those who lived in them.

The same attitude can be seen in the Society's work from its earliest years. While keen to promote the mechanization and concentration of our industries, it took active steps to ensure that the workers were protected from injurious fumes and harmful dusts, and to provide safety devices against accidents. Similarly a prominent element in its work for the encouragement of commerce was its effort to find better means of saving life at sea.

My last point is perhaps a little more personal. It is clear that your Society has, to a remarkable degree, discovered the secret of combining the virtues of age and youth. In reaching its Bicentenary the Society may take pride not merely that it has survived for so long, but that the remarkably wide range of experience which it has gained in this period has given it qualities of great value to-day—the qualities of stability and broadmindedness—due above all, perhaps, to its true sense of proportion.

You—and indeed the nation—may be proud that the Royal Society of Arts is two hundred years old. Yet fortunately, while the years have passed, there has been no loss of vitality. As times have changed so have the Society's methods, and if it has not at all times maintained its youth, it has often renewed it, and at the present time its vigour is evident to all. Your Society now enjoys the support of a membership far larger than it has ever had before, and under the wise leadership of its Council I am confident that a great future lies before it, a future of real benefit, in many ways perhaps as yet unthought of, to this country and to the world.

With this in mind, I give you the toast of The Royal Society of Arts, coupled with the name of its Chairman, Lord Radnor.

The Chairman of Council replied as follows:

May it please Your Royal Highnesses.

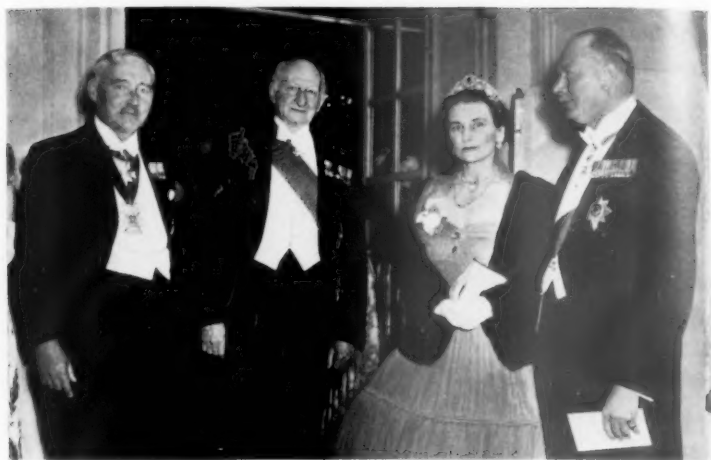
My first task is, on behalf of all of us here, to express our really great pleasure at the presence of Your Royal Highnesses here to-night. You, Sir, have mentioned in your speech proposing this toast that your last visit to us was to present diplomas on the first occasion that such diplomas were presented to Royal Designers for Industry. That was a very important occasion in the history of the Society, because at that time the 'R.D.I.', as we know it now, was our latest offspring. But to-night is really an even more important occasion, because to-night's Banquet is the culminating event in this week during which our Society has celebrated in various ways two hundred years of successful work.

One cannot help, after two hundred years, looking back a little—I perhaps more particularly than others—looking back to, for instance, the first meeting which I think was so charmingly recorded with a very nice distinction between 'Noblemen, Clergy, Gentlemen and Merchants'. This particular distinction applied also to the members' subscriptions: it was decided a year after the beginning that these should be not less than two guineas and Peers (I find myself looking at Lord Woolton), were expected to pay five guineas.

But I think, still looking back, the thing that most strikes the imagination is the quite extraordinary diversity of the Society's interests really throughout its life and the diversity (as I have only begun to realize since I became Chairman of Council) still persists to the present time. For example, I might point out to Sir Gerald Kelly once more, as His Royal Highness has already, that we had art exhibitions long before his outfit was thought of. And then there were agriculture in all its aspects, forestry, dust in industry, harpoon guns, soda, soap, and so on and so forth—the list is almost interminable. I nearly



The Banquet. Top: The Chairman and the Countess of Radnor receiving Sir James Mann, President of the Society of Antiquaries; bottom: Lady Folkestone, the Chairman, the Countess of Radnor, and the Secretary



The Banquet. Top: *The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester with Lord Hailey and the Chairman*; bottom: *The Chairman replying to the toast of The Society*



Three of the Banquet speakers. Top: Dame Ninette de Valois and Sir Ernest Goodale; bottom: Professor Adrian



The Banquet

forgot the Norway rats which exercised the mind of my predecessor, the first President, to some considerable extent, and from some of the Society's correspondence which I have seen it would appear that Longford, which is my home, as it was his, was at that time infested with the Norway or the grey rat, and I do not think the Society succeeded in finding a really satisfactory method of clearing them. All those are things of the past, and in a Society such as ours it is all very well to look back, as we can, with pride at our past but we must concentrate, generally speaking, on the future. We can look at our past, and we can get experience for the future from our past, but we must not live in the past.

You, Sir, in your speech referred to the apparently perpetual youthfulness of our Society and that is a very important thing with such a body. We must retain in our outlook on life a very youthful and forward-looking attitude of mind. We have *never* been afraid, I might perhaps say, of sticking out our neck and giving a new idea a chance, and we must continue in that particular attitude of mind and be quite prepared to hand the torch on to anybody who we may think will carry it forward to final success.

In our Society we have twice in our history very nearly come to a dead stop, and that was in both those cases because we limited our objective. We must never limit our objective, we must never limit our outlook: we must always be prepared as a Society to undertake any new idea, however revolutionary, in order to further the interests of the country, and surely in the years to come there are going to be a great many opportunities for a Society such as this to do good and to further the public interest. We have got to remember that fundamentally our business is 'for the public good'—these were the words of the first Secretary and founder, William Shipley—and we still have that ideal in front of us: for the public good.

With that in mind, may I say this: that we are fortunate to have, as our President, His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh. He seems to me to combine those qualities which are so important to our Society. First of all, he has the advantage of many of us in years. Secondly, he has a vigorous and an alert mind and he has already, in the short period since he has been President, made his imprint upon the activities of the Society, and may I hope that he will continue to be able to do so amongst his other multifarious duties. We are indeed delighted to have him as our President and I think I might add this, that when he made his presidential address, in November last, he did himself lay stress on this particular quality of youthfulness in our Society. And it is on that note that I would like to conclude my response to this toast which has been so ably proposed by His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester.

Before I conclude, I would like him and Her Royal Highness to realize how very very much we appreciate their presence here to-night. This Banquet for us was a very important occasion. It was the last function in a week in which we celebrated our Bicentenary. The presence of you, Sir, and you, Ma'am, to-night, has converted that function from being a very important one, to us, to being a very memorable one.

A toast to The Guests was then proposed by Sir Ernest Goodale, C.B.E., M.C., a past Chairman of Council, in the following words:

My Lord Chairman, May it please Your Royal Highnesses, My Lord Mayor, My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It has fallen to me as Chairman of the Society's Bicentenary Celebrations Committee to propose the toast of The Guests. A dictionary definition of a 'guest' is 'a visitor received and entertained'. To-night it gives the Fellows of this Society the greatest pleasure to receive and entertain our guests who have come from far and wide to help us do honour to the past, the present, and the future of our Society.

You, my Lord Chairman, have already said how honoured and gratified we are to have with us this evening Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester. May I be forgiven a personal reminiscence? Before the last war I had the honour, under the late Lord Derby, to serve the Textile Section of the British Industries Fair, and one of the most precious recollections of my wife and myself is escorting Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Gloucester quite alone on a private visit round the Textile Section of the Fair. I remember this and the many other instances of her interest in the arts, manufactures and commerce of this realm.

We delight to entertain to-night many distinguished guests including those representatives of other learned and kindred societies who presented addresses at Monday's ceremony.

We particularly welcome His Honour Mr. Justice Montanaro-Gauci, President of the Malta Society of Arts, founded in 1852 as the result of a dispatch from the Secretary of State inviting the formation of Colonial associations in connection with the Royal Society of Arts. Two years ago the Malta Society celebrated its centenary and on that occasion this Society presented an address of congratulation. This presentation was made by no less a person than the Governor himself, Sir Gerald Creasy, who is a Fellow of this parent body.

We also welcome M. Albert Caquot from our fellow Society in Paris, La Société d'Encouragement pour l'Industrie Nationale, founded by Napoleon in 1801 on the model of our Society. Three years ago, during my Chairmanship, I had the honour to represent the Royal Society of Arts at the 150th anniversary celebrations in Paris of La Société d'Encouragement. It is of particular interest to note that the word 'encouragement' of industry occurs also in the title of this French Society modelled on our own.

Then we have with us Professor Hackett, President of the Royal Dublin Society, and Professor James Kendall and Mr. Robert Plenderleith, the respective Presidents of our sister societies in Scotland, the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Royal Scottish Society of Arts, and Sir John Cecil Williams of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion.

I must avoid a mere catalogue of names, but I feel a special word of welcome is due to Counsellor Kleen of the Swedish Embassy, who is here to-night representing the Swedish Society of Arts and Crafts, Svenska Slöjdföreningen. At

the ceremony on Monday afternoon was presented to this Society the coveted Grand Medal which the Swedish Society instituted in 1870 on the twenty-fifth anniversary of its foundation. I believe that this is only the third time in over eighty years that this Grand Medal has been awarded to an institution and we greatly value this high honour done our Society on the occasion of its Bicentenary.

Also very warm welcomes are due to Sir Gerald Kelly, the President of that early child of this Society whose lustre now outshines even that of its parent (not an uncommon occurrence), and our past Vice-President and Elder Statesman who made such a happy closing speech last Monday afternoon—Lord Samuel.

As this week's festivities commemorate the founding of our Society two hundred years ago, I thought it might be a good idea to look back to 1754 and see who were the predecessors in that day of some of our other guests to-night. But I must confess I have had no great success!

For example, there was no Duke of Gloucester in 1754, and the then Lord Mayor of the City of London, Thomas Rawlinson, while he was Master of the Grocers' Company and a prominent Member of the Honourable Artillery Company, has left little record. Our present Lord Mayor, on the other hand, is not only one of the most distinguished of present-day Lord Mayors, and a member of the Court of the Vintners Company, but a prominent industrialist with a world-wide reputation (how much smaller still would our newspapers be without the activities of his great organization). Moreover, he is a man who brooks no more delay in the long-overdue rebuilding of his still great City.

Who was Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in 1754? He was Richard, first Baron Edgecumbe. Although a Fellow of this Society—a real point in his favour—the *Dictionary of National Biography* has little to say of him, and that not wholly in his favour. How differently will that authority speak in due time of the present Chancellor of the Duchy! My first contact with Lord Woolton was happily in connection with a subject we both have at heart—the improvement of industrial art. He and I were members of the Council for Art and Industry, and we learned much from our great Chairman, Frank Pick. Lord Woolton, as Sir Frederick Marquis, was appointed Pick's successor, but the outbreak of war put the Council into cold storage and Lord Woolton's great talents were turned from raising the standard of industrial design to keeping us more contentedly fed than in the First World War and under far more difficult circumstances. We welcome him here to-night, not only as a Fellow as was Lord Edgecumbe, not only for his interest in the work of the Society and all it stands for, but as a distinguished member of Her Majesty's Government.

There is one reference to 1754 I feel I must make, although this reference is not to a guest but to a Fellow. It is to inform you that Viscount Folkestone and his Lady are with us to-night. As most of you know, our first President was also the first Viscount Folkestone, and his portrait by Gainsborough adorns one of the walls of our Lecture Hall. The present Lord Folkestone, of course, uses the title by courtesy of his father, whose predecessor eleven years after the founding of this Society (in 1765) was raised to the Earldom of Radnor. We are very fortunate and happy to have this distinguished Peer as our present

Chairman, and to have Lady Radnor and Lord and Lady Folkestone with us this evening.

Dr. Adrian's predecessor in 1754 at the Royal Society was George, Earl of Macclesfield, mathematician and astronomer and a member of this Society from May, 1755, until his death. I like to find here a link, albeit a tenuous one, between that President and myself, because Macclesfield is the acknowledged centre of the silk industry of this country and I have the honour to be the present President of the Silk and Rayon Users' Association. It gives me the greatest pleasure to have the honour to couple the name of so distinguished a scientist as Dr. Adrian with this toast. He too has a world-wide reputation—for his great contribution to science. Last week he delivered the Society's annual Trueman Wood lecture on 'Recent Developments in the Study of the Sense Organs', and he gave us some fascinating glimpses of this baffling subject.

The other name I am equally honoured to couple with this toast is that of Dame Ninette de Valois, who blossoms in a very different garden although her work especially delights our senses of sight and sound. Only two nights ago my family and I were entranced by her superb production of that firm favourite, *Le Lac des Cygnes*. To-night Dame Ninette replies as the representative of all those of her sex who are here as our guests. And what a worthy representative! It is no more than a truism to say that Dame Ninette has raised English ballet to the eminence once proudly held by the Russian ballet and has, by her untiring devotion to her chosen purpose, delighted and entranced millions on both sides of the Atlantic. It is idle to look back to 1754 for *her* predecessor—she has none in any age—she is unique.

My Lord Chairman, I give you the toast of 'The Guests', and with it I couple the names of Dr. Adrian, President of the Royal Society, and Dame Ninette de Valois, Director of the Sadlers' Wells Ballet, who being a lady is very properly going to have the last word!

Dr. E. D. Adrian, *President of the Royal Society, replied on behalf of the Gentlemen Guests as follows:*

May it please Your Royal Highnesses, My Lord Chairman, My Lord Mayor, My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen: Any guest who has to address the Royal Society of Arts must have been enormously comforted to read that remarkable tribute which was paid to it by Dr. Samuel Johnson. He said, you remember, that when he rose to deliver a speech he had prepared he found the gathering so distinguished that 'his flowers of oratory forsook him'. He put it more bluntly to Boswell by saying that he several times had tried to speak at the Society but he found he 'could not get on'. But Dr. Johnson always hit the nail on the head and there is another thing he said which will appeal to every one of your guests and not merely to those of us who have to speak. He said, 'There is nothing a man sees better than his dinner'. If the doctor were here at this two-hundredth anniversary dinner I am sure he would be sitting back and reflecting how right he was to say it, but in company where even he was tongue-tied he would have very little use for oratory about it from somebody else, so the wisest course

for me would be to say, 'Thank you very much' as concisely as possible and pass the ball to Dame Ninette.

But I must not sit down without expressing the gratitude of your guests for all that the Royal Society of Arts has done to encourage the development of Science and Industry in this country. At the ceremony on Monday we listened to the congratulatory address which was presented on behalf of the oldest institution that was present there—the Royal College of Physicians, which has over four hundred years' experience in the science and art of medicine. But I now want to add the good wishes of a comparative youngster scarcely three hundred years old, the Royal Society of London for the Improving of Natural Knowledge. When Charles II founded us, it was quite a new idea that scientific development could make any difference at all to the way in which we lived. In fact, the Arts had it all their own way. In these days it is rather odd to read the sort of complaints that the scientists made. Here is what they said in 1667: 'How many and how extravagant have been the ornaments about coaches and how few inventions about new frames for coaches or about carts and ploughs! What prodigious expense has been thrown away about fashions of clothes, but how little endeavours have there been to invent new materials for clothing! Furniture and magnificence of houses has risen to a wonderful beauty within our memory, but few or none have thoroughly studied the well ordering of timber, the hardening of stone, the improvement of mortar, and the making of better bricks'.

So they started on new inventions for making the bricks better and after a time the Royal Society of Arts was founded to encourage them. And now the inventions have changed the face of the country and there is no stopping them. Well, scientific progress is grand, but somebody has to see to it that there is someone who has some regard for the people who are going to use it. The Royal Society of Arts was founded two hundred years ago but it was not a bit too soon. We were the first country to develop great industries and we made a good deal of mess in doing it, but the Society helped to develop them and it kept the mess from being a great deal worse. It did it by mixing up important people, in arts and sciences and manufacture, and getting them to reward bright ideas. It encouraged the inventors but it helped to develop farming and forests as well as the factories and towns, and it refused to believe that industrial processes were bound to be dangerous to the workers and that machine-made products were bound to be ugly. So after all, we did not do as badly as we might have done.

Even the Royal Society of Arts could not make coal other than black, and so we may have led the world in grimy cities. But I expect most of us regret the beautiful railway trains and the brightly coloured locomotives which used to take us there. And most of us can feel that a structure like the Forth Bridge is really worth continual painting as a spectacle as well as to keep out the rust. But the age of iron and steel and coal would have been far worse without a body to guide public opinion about it.

Now we are in the age of electricity and aluminium and atoms—maybe

a rather cleaner age to live in: decorations in plastic instead of in cast iron. But we still need to be shown how to get the best out of it. The Society will have to tackle the cold-blooded technologist instead of the hard-headed manufacturer, but they have two hundred years of experience in getting obstinate people to accept new ideas, and we trust them because they are a disinterested body of top-level people—a disinterested body which is neither a Government monopoly nor an alternative service with a less edifying programme.

So we can congratulate the Royal Society of Arts on what it has done in the past and look forward confidently to what it will do in the future, and we thank you most warmly for inviting us to share in your celebrations to-night.

Dame Ninette de Valois replied on behalf of the Lady Guests as follows:

I am very honoured that I should have been asked to respond to the toast on behalf of the lady guests present here to-night, for I speak as a representative of the youngest branch of the English Theatre. I think that is what I find so very touching. The English Ballet has only just celebrated its twenty-first birthday and we are happily now recognized as a branch of our great theatrical history. I do feel to-night that the Royal Society of Arts has paid us an extraordinarily deep and moving compliment by asking me to come here as the sole representative of this young art, and, on behalf of my fellow-guests, to thank the Royal Society of Arts for this great and memorable evening.

Youth has been greatly stressed in the speeches here this evening. To me that, of course, is another very important point. For the Ballet is always—and must be—youthful. It touches, perhaps more than any of the other arts, youth in this country. Only yesterday in the Royal Opera House did I stand in one of the boxes and watch about three thousand school children of all ages and of both sexes enjoy the performance of a full-length classical ballet at ten o'clock in the morning. That would, I am sure, have been impossible twenty-five years ago. But it is such institutions as the one we are here with to-night that have helped to make yesterday's performance possible in this country. I do know and feel that this is an occasion, odd as it may seem to you, that permits me to voice, before I sit down, a small grievance. This grievance I would like to see rectified after to-night. I think we have been encouraged to feel that for the last time we shall allude only to 'Three Arts', the Art of Music, the Art of Painting, and the Art of Drama. You may agree with me that perhaps in the history of the theatre to-day there is a fourth art: the art of movement. To-night I feel I have been given the courage to say this publicly.

May I, before I sit down, on behalf of my fellow-guests thank the Royal Society of Arts for the great honour and pleasure it gives us to be present here to-night.

THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES left shortly before 11 o'clock, and the rest of the company then dispersed.

STAFF BICENTENARY DINNER

held at the Kingsley Hotel at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, 31st March, 1954, with the Right Honble. the Earl of Radnor, K.C.V.O., Chairman of the Council, in the Chair

Thirty-eight members of the Staff were present at the dinner arranged for them by the Chairman and Council of the Society. The Chairman was accompanied by Lady Radnor and there were three other members of Council present.



Some of the diners at the Staff's Bicentenary dinner

After the company had dined and toasts had been proposed to the Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh. Mr. F. A. Wheeler proposed the toast of the Royal Society of Arts and Sir Ernest Goodale replied. The Chairman then proposed a toast to the Staff and thanked them for all the work which they had done in the months leading up to the Bicentenary which had made the past week's celebrations so successful. Mr. K. W. Luckhurst replied on behalf of the Staff.

The company were then entertained by a second performance, by students of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, of the third act of *She Stoops to Conquer*, which they had performed at the Council's dinner on Monday, 22nd March, 1954.

FROM THE JOURNAL OF 1854

VOLUME II. 24th March, 1854

It is interesting to note that in the Journal of March 24th, 1854, no mention whatever is made of the Centenary of the Society and that at an ordinary meeting, held exactly one hundred years after the first meeting of the Society, the following proceedings took place.

Wednesday, March 22, 1854

The Fifteenth Ordinary Meeting of the One Hundredth Session was held on Wednesday, the 22nd instant, William Bird, Esq., in the Chair.

The following candidates were balloted for and duly elected:—

Harvey, Henry.

Rushton, Thomas George Alfred.

Manchester, Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of.

The following Institutions have been taken into Union since the last announcement:—

352. Cirencester, Permanent Library.

353. Greenside (Ryton, Newcastle-on-Tyne) Library.

354. Wordsley, Library and Reading Association.

The Paper read was: ON SOME OF THE UNDEVELOPED RESOURCES OF INDIA. By George Buist, M.D., of Bombay.

Some Activities of Other Societies and Organizations

MEETINGS

MON. 12 APR. Electrical Engineers, Institution of, Savoy Place, W.C.2. 5.30 p.m. *Safety Measures for Radio and Television Equipment.* (Discussion.)

Geographical Society, Royal, South Kensington, S.W.7. 5.30 p.m. *Cornwall.* (Films.)

TUES. 13 APR. Anthropological Institute, Royal, at the Royal Society of Arts, W.C.2. 2.30 p.m. H. N. C. Stevenson: *The Importance of Custom in Industrial Society.*

British Architects, Royal Institute of, 66 Portland Place, W.1. 6 p.m. P. T. Fletcher: *Mechanical Installations for the Conveyance of Persons and Goods in Buildings.*

Civil Engineers, Institution of, Great George Street, S.W.1. 5.30 p.m. A. J. Clark and J. H. A. Broughton: *Extensions at Takoradi Harbour.*

Illuminating Engineering Society, at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, W.C.1. 6 p.m. H. H. Cartwright: *Illuminants for Colour Reproduction and Printing.*

Industrial Transport Association, at the Royal Society of Arts, W.C.2. 6.30 p.m. W. H. Glanville: *Road Safety and the Vehicle.*

International Affairs, Royal Institute of, Chatham House, 10 St. James's Square, S.W.1. 1.30 p.m. Sir Percival Griffiths: *Recent Developments in the Indian Sub-continent.*

Japan Society of London, at the Victoria & Albert Museum, S.W.7. 5.30 p.m. I. D. S. Beer: *A Sportsman's Impressions of Japan.*

Manchester Geographical Society, 16 St. Mary's Parsonage, Manchester, 3. 6.30 p.m. Mrs. Vera Chapman: *Field and Village Patterns in Cheshire.*

Mechanical Engineers, Institution of, Storey's Gate, S.W.1. 5.30 p.m. T. J. P. Joy and D. D. Hartley: *Tyre Characteristics as Applicable to Vehicle Stability Problems.*

WED. 14 APR. Petroleum Institute of, at Manson House, 26 Portland Place, W.1. 5.30 p.m. T. B. Webb: *The Design and Manufacture of Welded Pressure Vessels.*

